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LAMBDA

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Season over for Lady Vees

BY KRIS HARRIS
SPORTS EDITOR

The rollercoaster season for the Lady Vees basketball team that saw them ranked in the top five nationwide and then drop off the radar by the end of the year, ended in disappointment on Saturday in the OUA East division final. The women fell just short of winning the highly-touted game against Ottawa and a berth in the national championship tournament.

But, it was quite a playoff run for the team; the Lady Vees showed their poise this postseason, beating two good teams on the road to the East final, including first-place Toronto.

The first playoff test for the women came in the form of the Ryerson Rams, who visited Laurentian on Feb. 16. The Lady Vees managed to defeat the underdogs, squeaking out a four-point victory in the dying minutes of the game.

The first half of the game was laden with pressure and intensity, as neither team wanted their playoff run to end. The game went back and forth, with several lead changes, and after a high-

scoring 20 minutes, Ryerson found themselves up by a basket, leading 36-34.

The see-saw battle continued into the second period, with neither team able to establish control of the game. With eight minutes remaining, the teams were tied at 53, and it looked like they might need overtime to resolve the game. However, Laurentian leaders Tierney Hoo and Cassandra Carpenter, who combined for 30 second-half points, managed to provide one final push for the Lady Vees, who came out on top by a final count of 69-65.

"When it comes to games like this, we just have to work on getting all the jitters out," said head coach Mike Clarke after the match. "It got close a couple of times tonight, but we settled down and made some key shots."

Hoo finished the game with clutch numbers; she totalled 27 points, including a whopping six three-pointers, seven rebounds and four steals. Carpenter ended up with 24 points, 14 rebounds and four assists for her efforts.

Continued on Page 12



Kris Harris / LAMBDA

Province kicks in \$1.7 million for virtual reality mining network

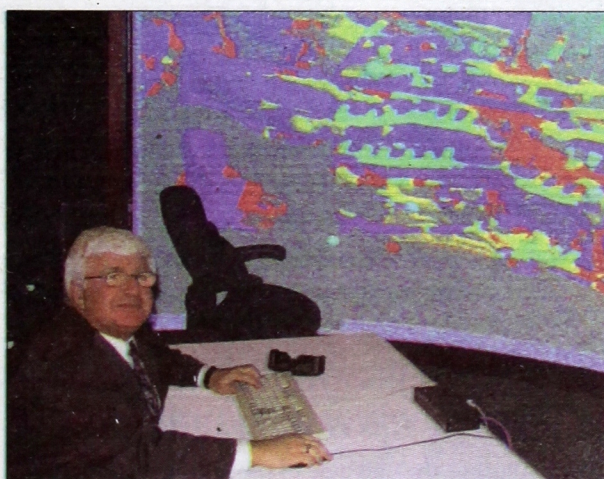
NEIL ZACHARJEWICZ
ASSISTANT EDITOR

The Ontario government has dug deep into their pockets in an effort to support the establishment of a network of virtual reality facilities to link Northern Ontario's mining industry.

On Monday, Rick Bartolucci, Minister of Northern Development and Mines and chair of the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC), announced an investment of \$1.7 million in MIRARCO's Northern Advanced Visualization Network (NAVNet) initiative. MIRARCO, Laurentian University's Mining Innovation, Rehabilitation and Applied Research Corporation, will be responsible for establishing the network.

"Our government is very pleased to invest in leading edge technology that will improve access to information for industry transactions in Northern Ontario," Bartolucci said. "This project is expected to create many new jobs in the region's virtual reality facilities as well as in the mineral exploration sector."

NAVNet will be a two-year project that will increase the capability of Northern Ontario's mineral exploration industry and attract new investment dollars to the region. With government, academic and industry partners, NAVNet is intended to provide access to tools and new methods to



Neil Zacharjewicz / LAMBDA

Rick Bartolucci, shown above, demonstrates the capabilities of the new NAVNet system.

help companies more strategically use their geological datasets, transfer property knowledge, discover anomalies and develop deposits. The investment will be spent in establishing two linked facilities in Timmins and Thunder Bay, as well as for improving technology in Red Lake and Sudbury. Finally, the funds will also be spent on the creation of a mobile facility for other centres and remote mining and mineral exploration sites.

"We are delighted that the Ontario govern-

ment could support this project, which will promote tele-decision making as a cost-effective and productivity enhancing tool," stated Dr. Peter Kaiser, president of MIRARCO. "With linked VR centres we will be able to develop unique capabilities in data interpretation and utilization in many aspects of mining."

Dr. Judith Woodsworth, president of Laurentian University, noted the benefits of the NAVNet project stretch far beyond the benefits that will be realized by the industry sector. She pointed out that the Northern Ontario Medical School would also use NAVNet for research.

"NAVNet creates opportunities for the university to collaborate with northern colleges, particularly Northern College (in Timmins)," she said. Woodsworth added that the project serves as a good example of what can be realized through collaboration between industry and the university.

"I wish to thank Minister Bartolucci for his passion," Dr. Woodsworth said.

Bartolucci noted the investment would enhance Northern Ontario's standing as one of the most technologically advanced mining jurisdictions in the world.

"I am very proud as Sudbury's MPP, as chair of the NOHFC, as the Minister of Northern Development and Mines, but also as a passionate Northerner, that we are able to invest in this type of technology," Bartolucci stated.

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WRITE TO US

Include your full name and student number. Please keep articles to a maximum of 700 words. Lambda reserves the right to edit for content considered sexist, racist, homophobic, heterosexist or for length. Letters of a harrasing or slanderous nature will be dealt with by the proper authorities.

E-MAIL SUBMISSIONS

Please e-mail submissions to lambda@laurentian.ca. Ensure the attached file is saved as TEXT or Word because we cannot transfer other files to Mac format. To be considered for print, all submissions must have your name and student number

EDITOR'S CORNER**It's not easy being green**

DEBBIE SAUVE
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Everyone who knows me knows that I love to be outside. That is where I feel most connected and the most in my element. I love to be away from the walls of my apartment and in the wilderness.

My senses become so alive. I feel like I can see better and I feel that I can hear better. I'm telling you, I can spot a tiny songbird in a stand of trees from 20 yards away. However, I recently started to come to my senses about how I treat the environment I love so much when I'm still in the city.

The President's Essay Competition posed a very important question when it asked what we can do as individuals to help facilitate climate change. It can be a very stifling thing to look at your own lifestyle and wonder what of it you would be willing to sacrifice to slow the release of harmful emissions.

Would you be willing to forego warming up your car on a cold day? Would you be willing to swap natural gas heating for electric, even if it meant a higher asking price?

Or would you be willing to, heaven forbid, walk?

Global warming has almost become a catch phrase. We hear about it in the media, we read about it in magazines, and who can forget Rick Mercer's recent plea to put the issue on our minds.

However, to go back to the essay question, what brings the issue home is what we are literally doing at home that we need to think about.

I consider myself to be relatively environmentally conscious, but I never realized how many choices I make on a daily basis that are harmful to the environment. I spent some time this week editing a friend's essay for the competition, and was repeatedly amazed at how many options there actually were.

For example, did you know that most cars manufactured over the last ten years

can take ethanol-blended gasoline?

I guess it can be easy to get into an environmental routine. I recycle and send a little money here and there to the nature federation of choice, but what else do I do? I started to look at environmentally-friendly behaviour a little like an exercise regiment - at a certain point, you inevitably hit a plateau.

That's when you're supposed to challenge yourself that one step further, and push your boundaries a little bit more. All of a sudden, The One Tonne Challenge made a little more sense.

SGA Annual General Meeting:

March 9, 2005
5 pm
Commons Room

Meet Ontario's Future**ON GOVERNMENT FUNDING:**

"I am recommending a significant increase in public funding for higher education, both for institutions and for students in need."

The Honourable Bob Rae,

Advisor to the Premier and the Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities
Postsecondary Review report, *Ontario: A Leader in Learning*, February 2005

Ontario's students are Ontario's future. To create the knowledge-rich workforce Ontario needs to prosper in the new economy, our students need the best education that we can provide - because tomorrow's opportunities will belong to those who are the best educated and most highly skilled.

As students, you know how much the quality of your learning experience depends on adequate funding. An underfunded university can't hire faculty in sufficient numbers to ensure that you have meaningful contact hours with your professors. It can't keep your libraries as well resourced, or your classrooms and labs as up to date as they should be. It can't replace obsolete equipment or undertake campus repairs in a timely manner. It can't provide as many of the important student services that help you succeed.

There is an urgent need for our government to increase funding for Ontario universities, both to raise quality and to ensure affordability for every qualified student who wants to acquire a university education.

What can be done?

The Ontario government recently commissioned a review on the design and funding of Ontario's postsecondary education system. The report is now available at www.raereview.on.ca. Budget allocations will be determined in the coming weeks.

Let your voice be heard! Call or write your local MPP today and visit us online at www.thinkontario.com to express your view.

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CAMPUS NEWS

What is Founder's Day?

Every year, Laurentian University is closed to commemorate Founders' Day on the third Monday in February. Although all enjoy taking the day off, very few do know the origin of this holiday.

To take a look at a few historical dates, in 1957, the Université de Sudbury (originally le Collège du Sacré-Coeur, founded by Jesuits in 1913) was established. Long before that, many discussions had taken place surrounding the creation of a post-secondary institution in Sudbury. A report submitted on September 2, 1959 constituted a major advance in the project.

A Special Committee, called by invitation of the University of Sudbury and chaired by Ralph D. Parker of Inco, agreed that "the requirements of higher education in northern Ontario could best be met by one strong non-denominational university and recommended that the parties co-operate in seeking provincial authority for a university governed by a non-denominational board with a system of church related colleges within the university, each to give instruction in subjects such as philosophy and religious knowledge and to provide residence accommoda-



tion for its students."

In January 1960, the United Church University was established in Sudbury and given the name Huntington University after the Rev. Silas Huntington, first missionary to hold services in North Bay and Sudbury. On March 28, 1960, Royal Assent was given to An Act Respecting the University of Sudbury, An Act to Incorporate Huntington University, An Act to Incorporate Lalemant College, and An Act to Incorporate Laurentian University of Sudbury. R.D. Parker and representatives of the Roman Catholic, United, and Anglican Churches witnessed the proceedings.

On May 7, 1960, the first Board of Governors meeting took place at the Nickel Range Hotel, in Sudbury. R.D. Parker was appointed Chair of the Board, which was made up to 24 governors nominated by the Roman Catholic, Anglican and United Churches and the provincial government. The only

woman on the Board was Dr. Faustina Kelly-Cook, a government-appointed physician. Major business at this meeting was to appoint committees. Benjamin F. Avery of Espanola was chosen to chair the Executive Committee; Donald L. James, Finance Committee; and George C. Tate, Real Estate Committee. Father Émile Bouvier, s.j., was appointed the first President of LU.

Finally, in September 1960, Laurentian University of Sudbury opened its doors, offering programs through a Faculty of Arts and Science, and divisions of Engineering, Business Administration, and Nursing.

It took a lot of energy, dedication, and drive to lead to the creation of this institution, unique among Canadian provinces at the time because of its non-denominational, bilingual, and federated organization. For this, we are all indebted to its Founding Fathers.

Black History Month

An activity-filled evening will be held in the Laurentian University Great Hall on Saturday, March 5, to celebrate Black History Month. Doors will open at 7 p.m. Admission is \$20 for adults, \$15 for students, and \$5 for children (5 to 12 years of age).

The Black History Month activities include several components, the first being the serving of traditional African and Caribbean foods, as well as "Canadian food" for the less adventurous.

The evening's guest speaker will be Mr. Ozzi Wilson, a lead pharmaceutical representative in Sudbury who will present a motivational speech. This will be followed by a fashion show displaying bright and colourful clothing from around the African and Caribbean areas.

There will be a strong cultural component to the evening, which will include the presentation of an exotic dance by Fabulous Motto, the playing of an array of music by the musical group Akwaba Fusion, as well as the reading of poetry and the presentation of a play. The evening will conclude with a dance.

Tickets for the evening may be purchased on the Laurentian campus at the offices of the Students' General Association (SGA) and Francophone Students' Association (AEF).

Black History Month is celebrated every year in Canada to honour the legacy of Black Canadians, past and present, during Black History Month. This event celebrates the many achievements and contributions of Black Canadians, who, throughout history, have greatly contributed to Canada's cultural diversity and prosperity. It is also an opportunity for Canadians to learn about the experiences of Black Canadians in our society, and the vital role this community has played throughout our shared history.

For more information, please contact Laurentian University's African Caribbean Association at luacsa@mail.com or aeacul@africamail.com.

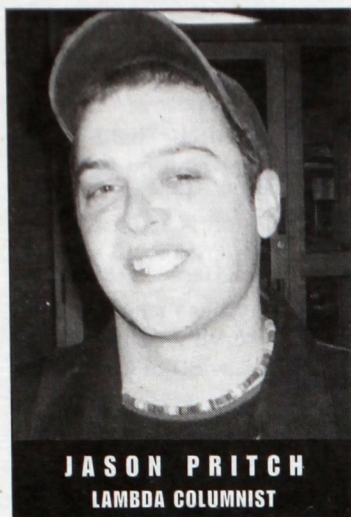


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AUTOPINION



JASON PRITCH
LAMBDA COLUMNIST

PRITCH PICKS: THE 2005 NISSAN ALTIMA

Affordable, useable, sensible fun

I didn't think my first review of a car for upcoming LU grads would be of a mid-sized sedan. I picture myself graduating and buying something with two doors, two seats and no roof. Maybe some of you can relate. Sadly, this fantasy does not fit the mould of the average graduate car buyer. But that's fine: the 2005 Altima doesn't exactly fit the styling mould of the average sedan. So, if you feel like breaking moulds, expressing your uniqueness, and don't want to spend a lot, you might just wind up liking the Altima as much as I did.

My tester came with the "Extra" package, which is loaded with great features and a steal at \$500. It brings the sticker price to about \$26,600 including PDI and environmental taxes. If you don't mind switching your own gears, you can save about \$1,000 with the five-speed manual gearbox. My tester came with a gated four-speed automatic.

The Altima looks refreshing. The angles are daring, the fascia is aggressive, and the hood is sculpted with great-looking lines raking from the windshield down to the grille. The trademark clear taillights with colored lenses inside have been a topic of controversy, but younger buyers will appreciate what they add to the Altima's ability to stand out in the crowd, and you'll get thumbs-up at traffic lights from Honda owners with clear-tails as well.

The Altima's interior space and refinement is surprising. The trunk, first off, is huge. It has 442 litres of space and although I wouldn't recommend trying to fill it with a liquid, you can fold down the seats to hold your skis or some furniture if you're moving. Your friends who always miss calling shotgun will appreciate the back doors opening 90 degrees, which means less bending and twisting and more of a lateral butt-slide to get in. I also discovered plenty of rear head and leg room.

There are no dollar-store plasticky bits inside the Altima, either. Every click, button, and latch operates with precision - small details you will appreciate if you plan to keep your Altima for a while. The 100-watt, six-speaker stereo sounds great and even seasoned audiophiles might consider keeping it. Metallic accents and abundant storage space complete the package.

Having a four-cylinder engine in your sedan means you smile when fueling next to an Escalade, but that you might get a little bored when you put your foot down. The base engine, however, powers the Spec V (a factory built hot-rod Nissan Sentra) and I was excited to try it. It

is a 2.5 litre unit with 175 horsepower and it uses a system called CVT. To make a long story short, CVT provides quiet and smooth operation when you are cruising along gently, like while driving your grandma to the hairdresser. But the CVT changes the engine's valve timing and ignition characteristics to make great mid-range snap when you put your boot into the throttle, when, for instance, leaving the parking lot on cruise night. Low end torque is phenomenal for a four cylinder engine, and it sets you nicely into your headrest

when coming out of a light full jam. Anyone with a pulse will get a kick out of the exhaust note over 5,000 RPM, when a valve in the muffler bypasses most of the sound baffling material and brings the upper quarter of the tachometer to life.

The suspension is firm and tight but dampened enough to absorb bumps in the roads with ease. Accelerating, steering and stopping on very rough washboard surfaces was predictable, smooth and quiet - no tug-of-war with the steering wheel was necessary to keep it in line. The ride was amazingly quiet inside, even at highway speed, and visibility was excellent. When braking, the car remained flat. My tester did not have ABS brakes but I had no trouble pulling the car down from speed without fuss. The brakes were easy to modulate yourself with plenty of feedback.

Nissan offers a Graduate rebate program on the Altima as well as their X-Trail, Sentra and Xterra. You get \$350 cash back, a quarter percent off the lease or finance rate, and four free oil changes. Every Nissan comes with perks such as a block heater, floor mats, a tankfull of gas, roadside assistance and even free travel planning free. Check out www.nissan.ca for details or contact Laurentian graduate Richard Mazucca at Northern Nissan at 670-8599 to have a look for yourself.

I had a fun afternoon with the Altima 2.5 S Extra. I can't help but think that even sportscar fans wouldn't mind being spotted in one. It stands out, has a nice engine, roomy interior, good warranty, great stereo and fantastic handling manners. It's mature enough to take your new boss out for lunch in, fun enough to take for a spin in the backroads, and refined enough that your parents will probably like it too, not that it matters.



2005 NISSAN ALTIMA

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Angela, 23
Aspiration: Travel Writer

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CAMPUS VOICES

Bob Rae's Report: a call to action



JUDITH WOODSWORTH
GUEST COLUMNIST

"Higher education must be a high priority. . . . Education is the bedrock of opportunity in the province. It is the one public policy that clearly links both our economic and social values."

After eight months of extensive and wide-ranging consultation, Bob Rae has spoken. Last week the former premier, commissioned by the provincial government to review the design and funding of Ontario's postsecondary sector, released his final report entitled "Ontario: A Leader in Learning."

There are many aspects of the report that have special significance for Northerners. Bob Rae took his consultation

on the road, meeting 5,500 people in 15 communities, including ours. Sudburians will recall the Roundtables at the community colleges and Town Hall session on the Laurentian University campus last October. It is clear that he has heard us.

With the help of a blue-chip panel that included our police chief, Ian Davidson, Mr. Rae has produced a comprehensive, far-reaching report that boldly tackles a myriad of problems and formulates a broad set of recommendations that need to be taken seriously.

The report urges the provincial government to make Ontario a "leader in learning" and to fund higher education accordingly. It calls for a commitment that every qualified student in Ontario be able to find a place in college or university regardless of means, and that this be enshrined in new legislation.

Mr. Rae is recommending that the province add over \$2 billion a year in additional funding by 2007-08: a total of \$1.2 billion in revenues for colleges and universities; over \$300 million in support for students; and \$500 million for capital, including new facilities.

The additional investment

in institutional funding is intended to improve the student experience, and provide for enrolment growth and an expansion of graduate education. Core funding is to be supplemented by special support for the education of professionals in high demand fields such as teaching, nursing and medicine - all of which are offered at Laurentian University. Other "envelopes" - of particular interest to our community - will help address accessibility and special needs of Northern institutions, Francophones, Aboriginals, and those who are the first in their family to participate in higher education.

If implemented, these recommendations will benefit our region and improve our chances for economic prosperity. As an example of where we now stand in relation to the rest of the province, only 13 per cent of Northeastern Ontarians aged 20 to 64 have a university certificate, diploma or degree - compared with over 24 per cent for those in Southern Ontario.

An overhaul of student assistance programs would include up-front grants for more than 95,000 low-income students, who would pay no

tuition at all. An improved system of grants and loans would assist middle-income students.

The issue of tuition fees has generated much discussion. Curiously, the report has been interpreted as advocating for both regulation and deregulation of tuition. In fact, Rae talks about a "regulatory framework enshrined in legislation to guide institutions in making decisions about tuition." He cautions, however, that changes to tuition regulation must be preceded by student aid reform, along with sustainable revenues for institutions. "Then, and only then," he says, "should government give institutions the autonomy to set tuition fees." Just how long it will take to arrive at adequate levels of student assistance and institutional funding, and just how tuition "regulation" will work, remain to be seen.

In the letter to the Premier and Minister with which he opens his report, Rae says that he is counting on their support. Despite the fiscal challenges that continue to dog the government, it is not likely that this report will be placed on a shelf to gather dust. Not this time. Despite the high price tag of the report, it

appears that the Premier, and key members of his government, support the goal of making higher education not just good but great. Let's hope that the federal government can be encouraged to step up to the plate, as well, to strengthen student assistance and enhance Aboriginal and Francophone education.

An investment in higher education is a wise investment in the social and economic health of the province and Northern Ontario, in particular. Research carried out in our institutions has far-reaching consequences - and this applies to the arts, humanities, social sciences, and pure sciences and not just the applied fields that yield tangible results.

Bob Rae is recommending more dollars, of course, but also a commitment from all parties to do more. This is not the end of a process, but rather the start of a "public commitment to make higher education great." With the government's support - with your support as a community - we can all respond to Bob Rae's call to action and work to provide excellent education to an ever-increasing and well served body of students.

The purpose of "Reading" week

BY NEIL ZACHARJEWICZ
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Today I'd like to tackle one of the big myths about Reading Week, since the week happens to still be fresh in most of our minds. So what exactly is this great myth? The myth is that Reading Week, as it is commonly referred to, is some sort of "spring break."

I don't know about the rest of you out there, but I'd say I was busy with too many other things to consider it a break. If anything, it was probably more stressful than a regular week of classes.

I laughed out loud recently when my boss asked me how my spring break was going. Funny, but with everything I had to get done last week, I hardly considered it relaxing.

Sure, I know lots of people who went home for the break, but quite frankly, I discovered that a lot of them returned to Sudbury well before the week was out to tackle essays and class projects. In fact, during the course of my own runs to the library, in between the load of extra shifts at work I picked up to try to stem the tide of my own personal student poverty, I encountered many classmates, all with the same thing on their mind: getting those papers done.

I'd have to take my socks off to count the number of my classmates I bumped into. We shared ideas, exchanged resources, offered each other assistance and found ourselves going to school even though we didn't have classes.

Now, some people I know, who currently aren't attending university, have told me that I would not find myself under all of this academic strain if I simply didn't "procrastinate." Fact is, I don't really perceive myself as having procrastinated anything, and none of my friends admitted to doing it either (a lesson we learned well in the first term when we, perhaps, did procrastinate a little). Sure, there

were times in the weeks leading up to Reading Week when we could have been working on papers instead of doing other things, but quite frankly, when you are in class all day, every day, you need a little space to do other things. I'm not saying I didn't work on my papers before Reading Week arrived (far from it), but I also made time in my life for other things.

The key to a healthy, well-rounded individual is to maintain a sense of balance in life, and, honestly, drowning yourself in studies and not enjoying the rest of life around you is not exactly a balanced lifestyle. Many of the people I know sit on various committees (and not just within the school), work part-time jobs (sometimes more than one, like myself), and still try to cram in some time for social interaction (and yes, some students get carried away with this one, but others fight to find time to cram it into their schedule). In general, these people are well-rounded individuals, people that any university hopes to develop.

What I am trying to get at here, in an admittedly roundabout sort of way, is that Reading Week is a very valuable asset to students because it buys them time to catch up on their studies and helps them to maintain a balanced lifestyle. For many, Reading Week isn't about basking on the beaches of some tropical vacation spot, even though it does sound appealing and I'm sure there are many students who will return with tans. What Reading Week is really all about is providing students with an opportunity to enjoy life and the university experience, and yet still find time to work on their studies.

So to whoever it was that came up with the idea of Reading Week, and to all of those who have facilitated in ensuring students have a week to work on their studies, I send out a big "thank you" on behalf of students everywhere. Some of us do truly appreciate the week for what it is.

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STUDENT TAXES

The complete student guide to filing your tax return

BY DEBBIE SAUVÉ
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Well, tax season is here - the time of year where we are all looking to get back a little bit of the money that has been picked out of our pockets by the government. This student guide to taxes should help get you started and understand what kinds of tax credits might be available to you.

Common types of income for students

Income may be reported by students on their tax returns. Some of the most common types of income students report are employment income, scholarships and bursaries, net research grants, interest and investments.

Employment income can consist of amounts you receive as salary, wages, commissions, bonuses, tips, gratuities and honoraria. Employment income is usually shown in box 14 of your T4 slip.

If you have not received your T4 slip by early April, or if you have any questions about an amount on a slip, contact your employer.

Income such as tips, gratuities, or occasional earnings may or may not be shown on your T4, Statement of Remuneration Paid slip. If they are not included on this slip, report them on line 104 for other income.

Scholarships and bursaries are amounts paid, or benefits given, to students to enable them to pursue their education.

Fellowships are similar to scholarships and bursaries in that they are amounts paid or benefits given to persons to enable them to advance their education. The recipient is usually a graduate student and the payer is normally a university, charity, or similar body.

An artist's project grant is a scholarship, fellowship, bursary or prize used in producing a literary, dramatic, musical, or artistic work.

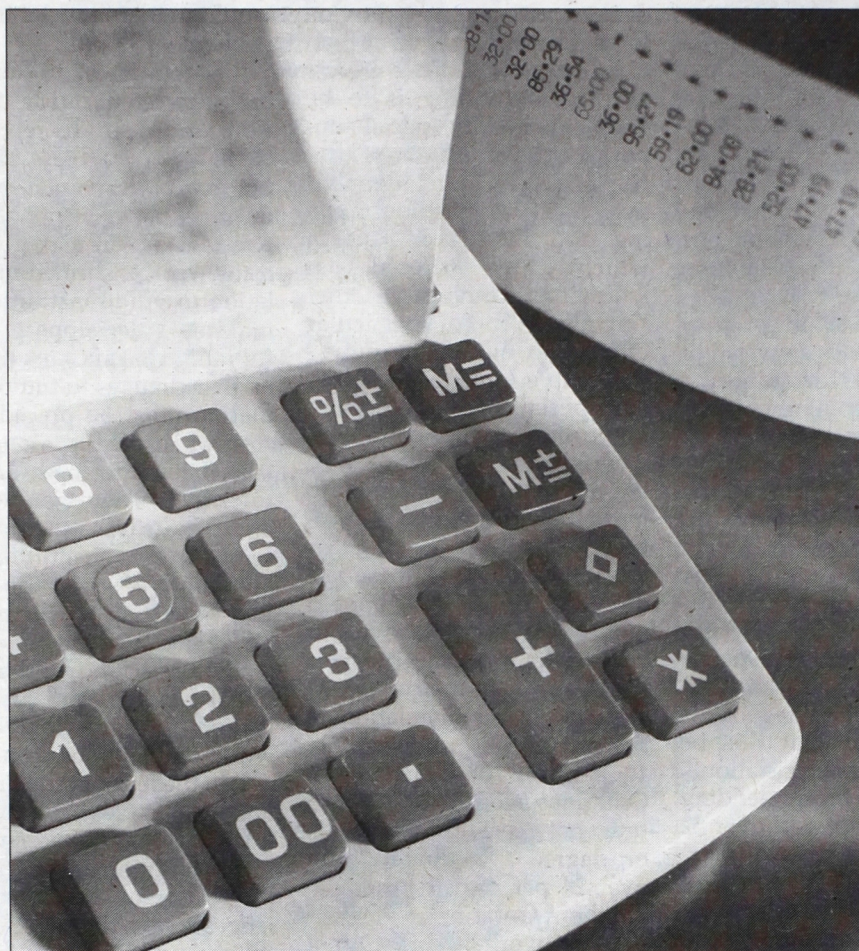
A research grant, on the other hand, is money you are given to pay for your expenses needed to carry out a research project.

You cannot claim expenses that are more than the amount of all of your research grants.

The following are allowable research expenses: salary or wages paid to an assistant; the cost of minor equipment and supplies; laboratory charges; and traveling expenses (including meals and lodging) that were incurred while traveling between your home and the place where you temporarily lived while doing the research work, from one temporary work location to another, or on field trips connected with your research work.

Interest and other investment income make up part of your total income and are reported on your tax return.

The amounts you include for the year depend on the type of investment and when you made it. Include amounts you received, minus any part that you reported in previous years. Also include amounts that were credited to you but that you did not receive, such as amounts that were reinvested.



Common deductions and credits for students

Students also have several deductions and credits that may be claimed on their tax returns.

Tuition fees:

The most obvious tax issue that affects students is related to tuition fees paid to qualified institutions at the post-secondary level. Tuition fees generate a nonrefundable 16-per cent tax credit that can be claimed by the student.

The legislation broadly defines what constitutes tuition fees and what goes beyond traditional academic fees. It also includes library fees, mandatory computer services, the cost of books (but only when they are included in correspondence course fees), as well as supplementary fees for athletic and health services.

If your employer pays your tuition fees, they are considered a taxable benefit and will be listed as part of your income on your T4 slip.

Moving expenses:

If you move more than 40 kilometres away from home to attend school, your moving expenses are tax-deductible, but only from scholarship income.

These expenses can include travel costs and meals, as well as certain lodging expenses during the trip and for a short period of time thereafter.

RESP revenue:

Registered Education Savings Plans (RESPs) provide an excellent tax-planning and income-splitting strategy. Students who use the savings from their RESPs to fund their educations are taxed on the income portion, but not on the capital.

Education credit:

Both full-time and part-time students benefit from a federal education tax credit. For full-time students the amount is \$64 for each month you attend a qualifying educational institution. The credit for part-time students is \$19.20 per month.

Students who do not take advantage of tuition or education credits can carry forward any unused amounts to a later year.

Student loans:

While student loan payments do not qualify for a tax credit, a portion of the interest paid on those loans does. This credit can be claimed in the year the interest was paid or in any of the five subsequent years.

To be eligible, the student loan must be issued under the Canada Student Loans Act or similar provincial legislation.

Childcare:

Students in qualifying programs with children under the age of 16 may deduct child-care expenses with respect to the time they are in school.

RRSP savings:

Many people are going back to school after several years in the workforce in order to increase their marketability or to pursue an advanced degree.

If you are thinking about doing so, one excellent tax-planning opportunity is to contribute the maximum amount to your RRSP each year while you are working.

Then, when you return to full-time studies, you can take advantage of the Canada Revenue Agency's Lifelong Learning Plan, which allows you to use as much as \$20,000 of your savings to fund your course fees and living expenses while you study.

Any money you withdraw will be taxed, but at a much lower rate than usual since you'll have less income.

AT A GLANCE . . .

Do you have to file a tax return?

You have to file a tax return for 2004 if any of the following applies:

- You had to pay tax for 2004.
- You were sent a request to file a tax return.
- You disposed of property in 2004 or you realized a taxable capital gain.
- You had to pay back any of your Old Age Security or Employment Insurance benefits.
- You have not repaid all of the amounts you withdrew from your registered retirement savings plan (RRSP) under the Home Buyers' Plan or the Lifelong Learning Plan.
- You had to contribute to the Canada Pension Plan (CPP). This can apply if, for 2004, the total of your net self-employment income and pensionable employment income is more than \$3,500.

What to include with your return

If you are filing a paper return, attach one copy of each of your information slips. These slips show the amount of income that was paid to you during the year, and deductions that were withheld from that income. Some common information slips are:

- T4 slips, which show employment income and payroll deductions;
- T4A slips, which show scholarship and bursary income, or payments from a registered education savings plan; and
- T5 slips, which show investment income such as interest from financial institutions or from Canada Savings Bonds.

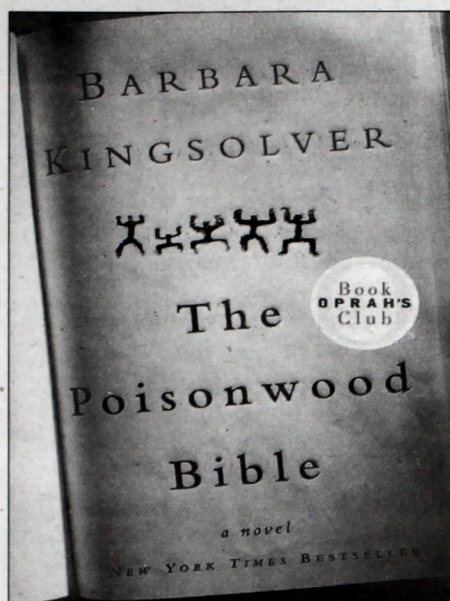
Notes on each slip tell you where to report the income on your return.

Information in your tax package or on other forms tell you what supporting documents, such as certificates, forms, schedules, or official receipts you need to attach to your return. Even if you do not have to attach certain documents to your return, or if you are filing your return electronically, keep them in case we select your return for review. Generally, you should keep your supporting documents for six years.

You should keep a copy of your return and Notice of Assessment, and any Notice of Reassessment. These can help you complete your return for the following year. For example, your Notice of Assessment will show the tuition and education amounts you can carry forward.

LAMBDA REVIEWS

The Poisonwood Bible takes readers around the world



BY TARYN GREEN
LAMBDA CONTRIBUTOR

What would happen if your family suddenly decided to leave this safe country of ours and travel to another part of the world whose culture was vastly dif-

ferent? A country where things you thought were so valuable in Canada, were not even a bare necessity? How would you adjust? How would you survive? Would you let this culture transform and change you? Or would you close your mind to the possibilities that surrounded you? Not only would you discover a new landscape, but you would have the opportunity to discover a new part of yourself.

Barbara Kingsolver explores this dramatic shift of lifestyle in her book, *The Poisonwood Bible*, when the Price family is uprooted from their home in a small town in Georgia and placed in the middle of the Belgian Congo in Africa during the early 1960s.

It is an engaging story told through the eyes of five women ranging from a middle-aged mother to her five-year-old daughter, each with their own distinct personalities. The fact that each chapter is narrated by one of the five women enables the reader to relate to at least one of the characters as they tell their side of the story, making the book an easy

but captivating read.

Nathan Price, the husband and father, is a fierce evangelical Baptist preacher who accepts the mission to go to the Congo and spread the word of the Lord. He believes it will be easy to change the ideologies of a culture and does not realize that maybe his beliefs aren't necessarily the right ones for the Congolese.

This is a story about how Africa, an amazing continent that is culturally rich, changes the lives of the Price family forever as they endure the many struggles that occur when adjusting to a foreign landscape. *The Poisonwood Bible* takes place over a period of three decades from 1959 when the Price family arrives in the Congo up until the late 1980s, enabling you to watch how the experiences and struggles change the lives of the characters forever.

Kingsolver cleverly questions the beliefs and lifestyle of western civilization during a time of great political upheaval in the Congo and makes you realize that "everything you're sure is right can be wrong in another place."

As I read this novel I found that I was asking myself many questions about the world in which I live. Everything we cherish and take for granted: our homes, food, health, education, television, etc., have very different values in other countries.

The tears, losses, sacrifices, punishments, struggles, joys and times of laughter endured by the Price family are also shared with and felt by the reader. What would you do in their situation? Would you let Africa change you? Would you try to understand the Congo way of life, a way very different from your own? I have never read a novel quite like this one: so captivating, uplifting, and encouraging and at the same time heartbreaking. Kingsolver creates vibrant and colourful characters whose voices you can still hear long after the novel is placed back on the shelf. From the very first words to the very last, this story is sure to capture your heart and feed your soul. This is one of those books that will change your life, I promise.

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CAMPUS NEWS

FEDERAL BUDGET

Martin breaks promise to restore education funding

BY MEGAN THOMAS
CUP OTTAWA BUREAU CHIEF

KINGSTON, Ont. (CUP) — Cautious optimism quickly gave way to discontent and frustration among student leaders as Finance Minister Ralph Goodale tabled the federal budget in the House of Commons Feb. 23.

The heads of both national student lobby groups had hoped to see the current \$10.8 billion in debt among Canadian students addressed, as well as ever-rising tuition fees.

Instead, they faced a budget that hardly made mention of higher education.

"This is the worst budget for education spending in a long, long time," said a disappointed George Soule, national chair of the Canadian Federation of Students.

"How can you ignore a fundamental social building block of this country?" asked a frustrated James Kusie, national director of the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations.

The optimism started building last month when provincial finance ministers met in Ottawa and declared post-secondary education their next priority after health care.

Then the federal finance committee recommended a dedicated cash transfer to the provinces to boost funding for post-secondary education, something the student groups had long lobbied for.

Pre-budget predictions also centred on propping up Canada's social programs, which took a hit in the mid-'90s during Prime Minister Paul Martin's days as finance minister.

But all that momentum was crushed on budget day, Kusie and Soule said, when the document failed miserably to respond to the needs of post-secondary education.

"This budget is about as exciting as the current NHL season," Kusie said, adding Goodale's decision to make this budget a plan for the next five years, instead of the usual two, is particularly concerning for students.

The budget shows the Liberal minority was more concerned with pleasing opposition parties and avoiding an election than with meeting the needs of Canadians, Soule said. He



Megan Thomas/Canadian University Press

Prime Minister Paul Martin, pictured here last fall, appears to have avoided having his government topple over the budget. But education leaders say it ignores post-secondary education.

said the Liberals shied away from commitments to higher education made during the election campaign last June — promises like the dedicated transfer payments for education.

A few overtures were made towards higher education in the budget. Student loan forgiveness was granted in the event of a student's death or disability, \$375 million over five years was granted to federal research granting councils and \$75 million over five years will fund indirect research costs at universities.

But the \$15 million earmarked for this year doesn't come close to meeting the demand for research infrastructure, said James Turk, executive director of the Canadian Association of University Teachers.

"This budget absolutely fails post-secondary education," Turk said.

A \$30 million investment is needed this year to maintain the current level of

funding for universities to pay for lab space and equipment, he said.

Turk said he read through the entire 350-page budget document and was shocked to find virtually no mention of post-secondary education.

Other commitments in the budget include \$5 billion for a national child care program, \$12.8 billion in new equipment for the Canadian military, and \$3.4 billion for foreign aid, including the already-promised \$425 million in tsunami relief for southern Asia. All commitments are spread over five years.

The expected \$41.3 billion over 10 years for health care was also included.

A House vote on the budget is expected in the next couple of weeks. The Conservative party has indicated it will vote in favour, ensuring the minority Liberal government will not fall over the budget.

SGA Elections around the corner

Welcome Back! That is the 4th and last time that I will say welcome back! I promise! I hope you all had fabulous reading weeks. For those of you who went somewhere warm, I'm jealous; for those of you who had to finish reports or study for midterms, not jealous at all!

Guess what time it is!?! That's right, election time! The nomination period has begun here in the SGA/AGE office, so if you are even contemplating running for a position, stop by the office and pick up a form. Nomination forms are necessary for three (3) of the six (6) commissioner positions, five (5) off-campus representatives, three (3) senators, and of course, the three (3) executive positions.

Commissioners represent a constituency of students that are not represented as an academic unit. Three commissioners are appointed by their constituency and three are elected. The Francophone Affairs Commissioner, the International Student Commissioner, and the Cultural Affairs Commissioner are all elected, and they are responsible to promote politically, socially and administratively, a university environment that is inclusive and supportive of their constituents.

Off-campus representatives co-ordinate off-campus programming and address problems that affect students who live off-campus. The three (3) senator positions give students a voice at the senate table, representing all SGA/AGE students at this level. Many University decisions are made at the senate level, so it is important to have great student representation at this table.

Finally, the three executive positions: President, Vice-President Services, and Vice-President Issues. I'll provide a brief overview, but if you are serious about running for one of the exec positions, please stop by the office to speak to one of us. The President is the official spokesperson for the SGA/AGE and is responsible and held accountable for the operations of the SGA/AGE. He/she represents the SGA/AGE to all external bodies and sits on many committees as the voice and face of the SGA/AGE. The VP Services is responsible to liaise with clubs and organizations and co-ordinate the planning and organization of orientation and other major SGA/AGE social events. The VP Issues must ensure that constituent cultures of the SGA/AGE membership are accommodated, reflected and represented in the activities and projects of the SGA/AGE and create awareness of issues that affect students. If you would like any further information on any of these positions, e-mail me at sgapresident@laurentian.ca or stop by the SGA/AGE office anytime!

Cheers,
Cathy Carroll
SGA President



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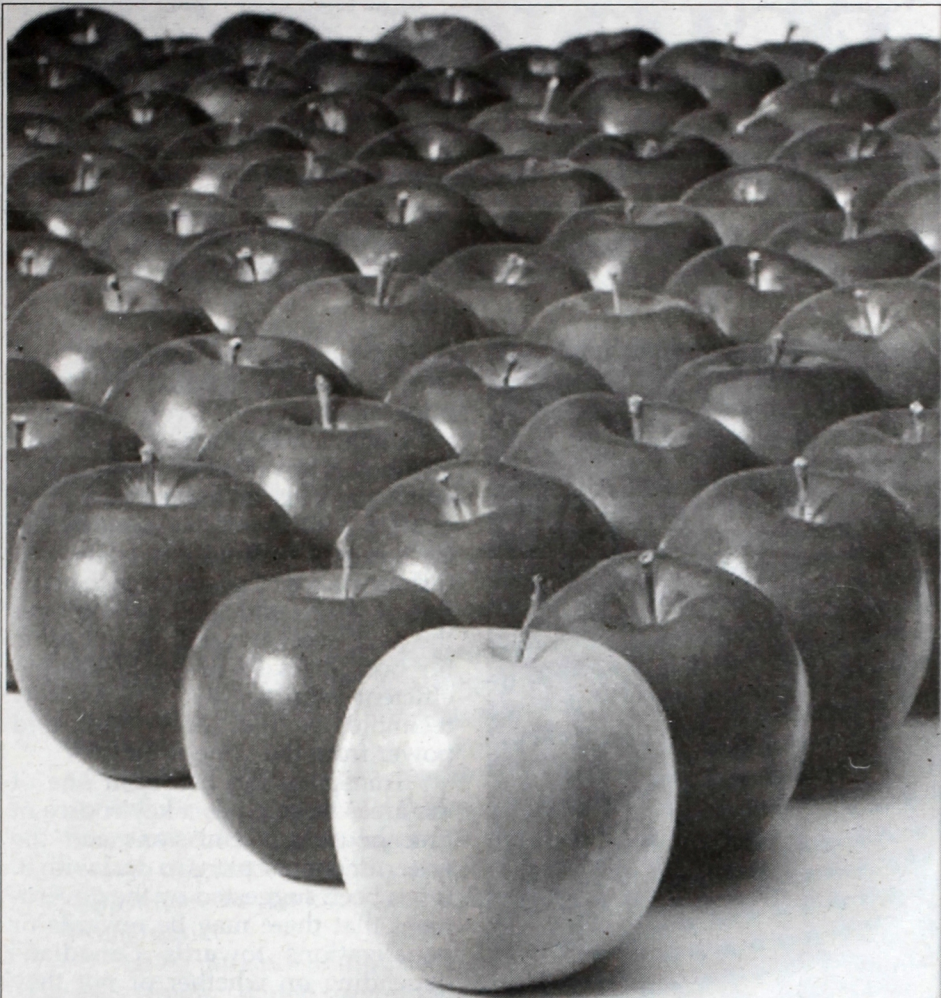
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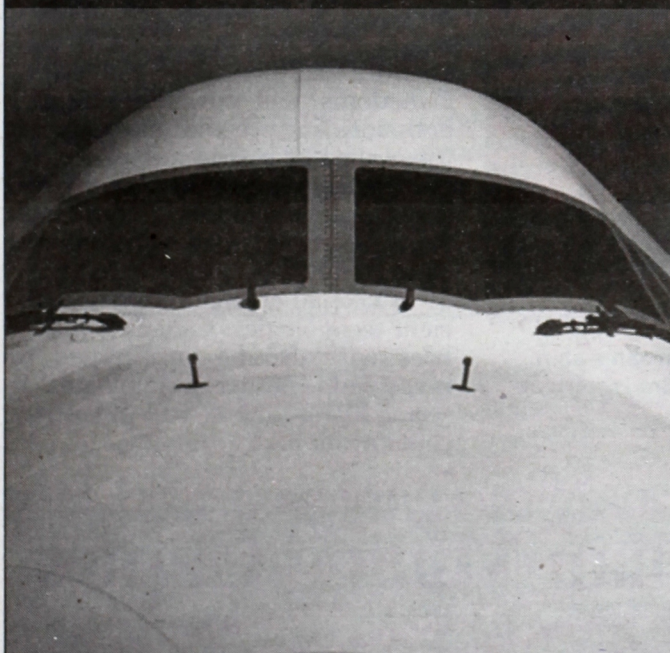


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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Science & Technology Editor: Kevin Roche - lambda_science@laurentian.ca

Kyoto declared international law

BY KEVIN ROCHE

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY EDITOR

The Kyoto Protocol went into effect on Feb. 16, seven years after it was negotiated. The protocol works by putting limitations on emissions of carbon dioxide and other gases scientists blame for global warming.

The agreement, negotiated in Kyoto, Japan in 1997 was ratified by 141 nations including the European Union. These countries, accounting for 55 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions, have ratified the treaty, which pledges to cut these emissions by 5.2 per cent by 2012.

Implementation of the agreement had been postponed until recently because it would not be effective unless countries accounting for 55 per cent of the world's emissions ratify it. The goal was reached last year in November when Russia agreed to sign the protocol.

With the treaty officially in force, it is now possible for the Kyoto Protocol to effectively reduce greenhouse emissions that have been shown by scientists to be responsible for climate change. It doesn't mean to say that the world is now at a suitable level of polluting emissions, it means that it is now possible to work towards the agreement with the support of 141 countries.

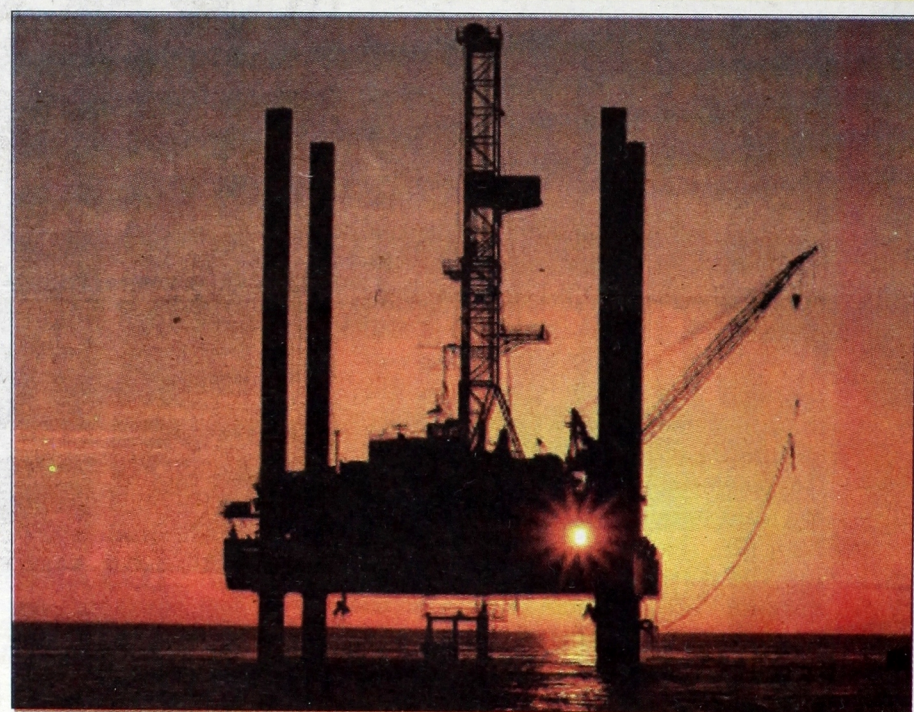
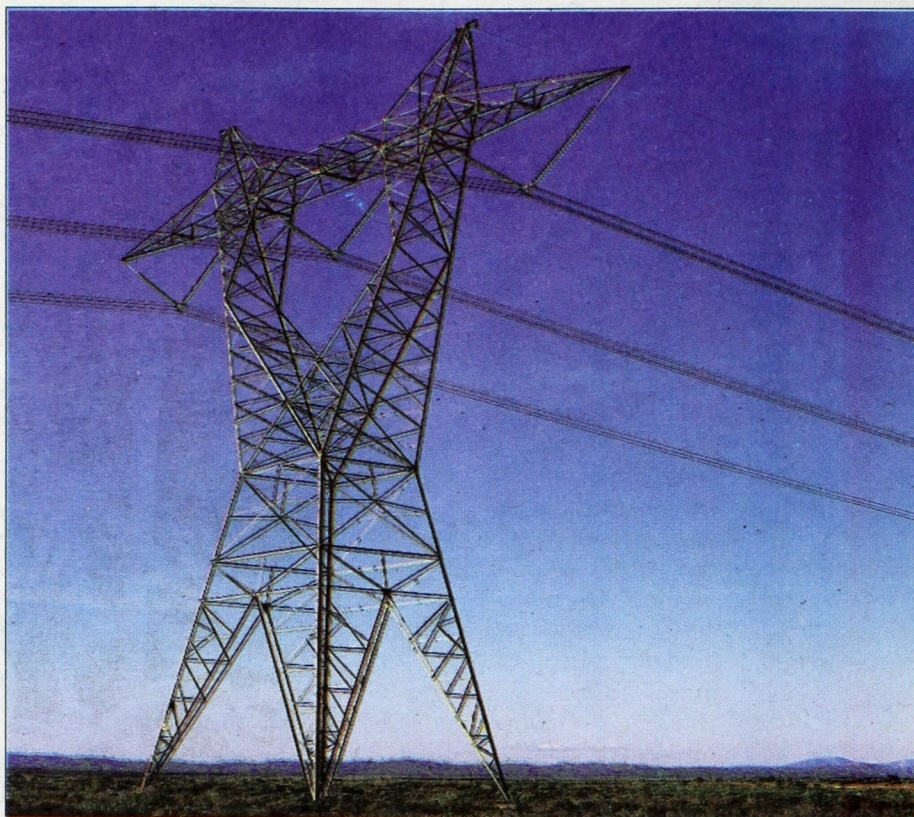
Japan's Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi issued a statement welcoming the treaty but also calling on non-signatories to rethink. He said, "From now, we have to build a system in which more nations will work together under the common framework to stop global warming."

Canada has announced \$5 billion towards the plan

The Federal Budget introduced on Feb. 23 has included plans to help work towards Canada's Kyoto requirements with a five billion dollar package over the next five years.

Finance Minister Ralph Goodale said the federal government is serious about meeting the obligations set by the Kyoto Protocol and combating climate change.

John Bennett of the Sierra Club spoke of Canada's efforts towards



File Photos

As many parts of the world sign onto the Kyoto Protocol, it may mean a shift towards more environmentally-friendly forms of energy like hydro (shown at top) as opposed to oil (shown above).

the protocol as "an indication that clearly says [Canadians] are determined to meet their Kyoto targets."

Canadian businesses can expect all kinds of government funding that will promote clean industries. A total of \$920 million will be spent by the government to fund wind powered turbines across Canada over the next fifteen years, and \$295 million over the next five years will be put aside for businesses to invest in energy-efficient equipment, such as new technologies that draw heat and power from the same source.

Transportation has been one of the areas targeted as a key source of greenhouse gas emissions and the government has plans to deal with it. It has been suggested by the government that there may be rewards or penalizations towards Canadians depending on whether or not they are driving a gas guzzler or a fuel efficient vehicle.

No taxes have yet been introduced regarding sport utility vehicles or if subsidies involving hybrid gas-electric vehicles will be offered, but it has been implied that the government is bearing in mind actions to get Canadians into environmentally friendly automobiles.

Laurentian students who are concerned with a Sudbury annual bus pass as part of their tuition may be interested in a proposed tax exemption offered by Ottawa to get more people to take public transportation, such as buses and trains, to work.

Over the next five years Canadians can expect to be seeing more of these types of improvements. With the promotion of eco-friendly automotive industries, Canadians will cut back on fuel emissions and we will hopefully see a new line of hybrid-model cars on our roads, quite possibly the hydrogen fuel cell will also see some vital development. Canadian homes can be expected to be built differently, so as to take advantage of energy efficient technologies. Canadian industries will also be encouraged to invest into cleaner technologies. It seems like a time of real prosperity could await us.

LU engineering students take Canadian Mining Games

BY BEN ROWE
LAMBDA STAFF

For the fifth time in the last seven years, Laurentian University's School of Engineering has won the Canadian Mining Games, beating out nine other Canadian universities.

From Feb. 24-26, the school hosted the 15th annual games and was not kind to their guests, as they beat out McGill and the University of British Columbia to take the title of "Top Mining/Metallurgy Students in Canada."

A total of 117 students took part in the games, which included 20 events related to mining and engineering, including blasting, equipment selection, AutoCAD, mechanical design, mine rescue, mineral identification and separation, mine survey and a stock market challenge.

Since the event's inception in 1991, Laurentian boasts the best cumulative record

over that span, winning a total of six gold, five silver and one bronze. That's 12 top-three finishes in 15 events, a record unmatched by any other school in the event. As host, the pressure was on to ensure that the winning streak continued after last year's win in Alberta. The school either won or finished in the top three in half the categories to seal the victory.

Laurentian has earned respect and accolades from across the country after beating out much larger schools, including the University of Toronto, Queen's University and the University of Alberta.

Being in a mining community helps the students prosper, as local employer Inco is a giant in the mining technology field.

Laurentian will attempt to win their seventh gold medal next year at Queen's University in Kingston.

Congratulations from Lambda!



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Science & Technology Editor: Kevin Roche - lambda_science@laurentian.ca

Discovering the origin of species

BY KEVIN ROCHE

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY EDITOR

New research of human skeletal remains found in Ethiopia nearly forty years ago has shown evidence that humans have been around a lot longer than previously predicted.

Most anthropologists say Homo sapiens emerged in East Africa about 200,000 to 250,000 years ago, migrated north, and then east to the rest of the world.

In 1967, two human fossils were found in south-western Ethiopia and were named Omo I and Omo II. Their names originate from the Omo Valley located nearby the location where they were found.

Using modern dating techniques, the fossils which were originally thought to have been 130,000 years old, are now estimated to be 195,000 years old. This would place these fossils in the same period at which modern humans, Homo sapiens, are thought to have emerged.

In order to gather the data used in this new study, scientists returned to the original excavation sites of the Omo fossils. Volcanic minerals found at the location were used to provide precise isotopic dating. The radiometric dating methods used in the original study were less accurate and suggested an age of roughly 130,000 years. With the new study, it was found that not only were researchers able to predict more precisely the exact age of these fossils, but also tie both sets of fossils to the same time period.

The Omo II fossil has been considered by scientists to be more primitive in its nature in comparison to the Omo I fossil which resembles more closely the skeletal structure of the modern human. Both of these fossils were found in relatively the same area of the

Omo Valley and have sparked the imagination of some scientists with regards to how these two very different individuals lived at the same time in the same region. A paleo-anthropologist from Binghamton University in New York, G. Philip Rightmire, believes that these fossils lived during a time when Homo sapiens lived alongside their ancestral species.

The Omo Research Expedition is where many discoveries of this sort have been made. During the 1960s and 70s, summer expeditions of up to a dozen American, French and Belgian scientists with the support of African field workers were held in the Omo Valley. These researchers were looking for clues that would explain how the evolution of man was shaped.

With these new findings which are available in the latest publication of the science journal Nature, scientists are able to draw new conclusions to answer our evolutionary question. It gives more credibility to the idea that most of human history is rooted to Africa and supports the "out of Africa" hypothesis which claims that Homo sapiens originated in the African continent, and then spread out across the world.

One of the questions still facing scientists is with regards to our cultural heritage. Although modern science has pushed back the time of origin of the human species, it still leaves us wondering about the cultural aspects of humanity with only 50,000 years of recorded history involving harpoons, music, needles and most tools. Scientists have identified a critical time gap between the modern human skeleton and modern human behaviour with 150,000 years left unaccounted for. The debate continues as scientists question when exactly humans left Africa to venture out into other parts of the world.



Photo Supplied

Scientists believe that early human civilization began in Africa rather than rising up independently at several locations around the world

Finding solutions to global mining issues

LU engineering professor initiates international mining research project

Laurentian University Engineering professor Dr. Vassilios Kazakidis is spearheading an international research project that seeks to improve the efficiency of mining globally. This innovative project is the first of an international collaboration between Falconbridge Ltd, Boliden AB, the Gällivare HardRock Research group (GHRR), the Luleå University of Technology, and Laurentian University.

During the course of this project, researchers will compare the practices followed for quality control in lateral drift development and evaluate the technologies presently being used in underground mines in Canada and Sweden. In an effort to improve its viability, the Canadian mining industry is attempting to increase its rapid lateral drift development rates for single headings in hard rock mines to over 15 metres per day where-



as its current rates are quite modest and haven't changed in many years.

Developing quicker process alternatives, which include quality assurance and predictability, is of great importance for mining companies such as Falconbridge Ltd. This project focuses on evaluating the quality aspects of technological alternatives that can then be implemented in underground mine sites in order to increase the rates of advance in lateral drift development.

According to Dr. Kazakidis, a professor of underground mine design in Laurentian's School

of Engineering and a member of the Deep Mining Research Consortium, researchers must work closely with the local mining industry and develop pragmatic solutions to overcome the challenges faced by the Canadian mining sector, by enabling them to optimize existing technologies and adopt innovative alternatives.

The project will provide Dr. Kazakidis and his students access to mines and will enable them to participate directly in mine design projects. The first participating Master's level student will compare base line practices in lateral drift development in the two countries, and will take courses at Luleå University of Technology. In addition to enhancing Laurentian's international profile, the project provides research opportunities and an exposure to the global mining industry, and promotes the exchange of expertise between Canada and Sweden.

This international industrial research collaboration received funding from Science and Engineering Research Canada (NSERC) and industry. Dr. Kazakidis' project is valued at \$226,000 over a two-year period. He has received \$58,800 in funding from NSERC as well as \$79,200 from Falconbridge Ltd. Direct in-kind industrial contributions are valued at \$88,000.

LAMBDA SPORTS

Sports Editor: Kris Harris - lambda_sports@laurentian.ca

Lady Vees come up short

Team loses in East final, but players bring home individual awards and all-star nominations from league

BY KRIS HARRIS
SPORTS EDITOR

Continued from Page 1

There was no time for the team to celebrate, however, as they had to travel down to Toronto to battle the East division leading Varsity Blues for a Feb. 19 showdown for a spot in the division finals. This time, the Lady Vees displayed their dominance, delivering a decisive 12-point victory over their division rivals.

Laurentian came out of the gate with determination and heart, taking it to the favoured home team early and often. Hoo scored 10 in the first half for the Vees, while teammate Brianne Henry nailed three consecutive three-point shots. However, the Toronto women kept their heads in the game, earning a three-point advantage after 20 minutes.

The second half was a different story altogether; the Lady Vees dominated both ends of the court, outscoring their opponents by 15 in the half. Carpenter's hard work defensively led to a lot of offensive opportunities for Laurentian, enabling the team to pull ahead for good. Late in the game, with Laurentian up by 10, the Blues started to foul the Lady Vees to give themselves a chance, but some clutch free-throw shooting made the difference, and Laurentian walked out of Toronto with a 70-58 win and a pass to the next round.

"We showed a lot of toughness tonight," Clarke said after the game. "It was our defence that pulled us back into the game, and it was our composure that won us the game tonight."

Hoo led the way in scoring for the second straight game, pouring in 19 points, three rebounds, three assists and three steals. But Henry was the story of the game for the Lady Vees, according to the coach; she scored 18 points, including five three-pointers, and added five boards and two assists. Carpenter rounded out the scoring for Laurentian with her 13 points and 13 rebounds, shooting a crucial 70 per cent from the charity stripe. All in all, the team shot a solid 77 per cent from the foul line, garnering 13 more free-throw attempts than their opponents in the contest.

Next it was off to Ottawa, for a Feb. 27 rematch of last year's East division final against the Gee-Gees. Laurentian was looking for redemption against the team that had ousted them from the playoffs last season; unfortunately, the game slipped away from the team in the dying minutes, handing the Lady Vees a disappointing loss and sending them home with pain in their hearts and thoughts of next season in their heads.

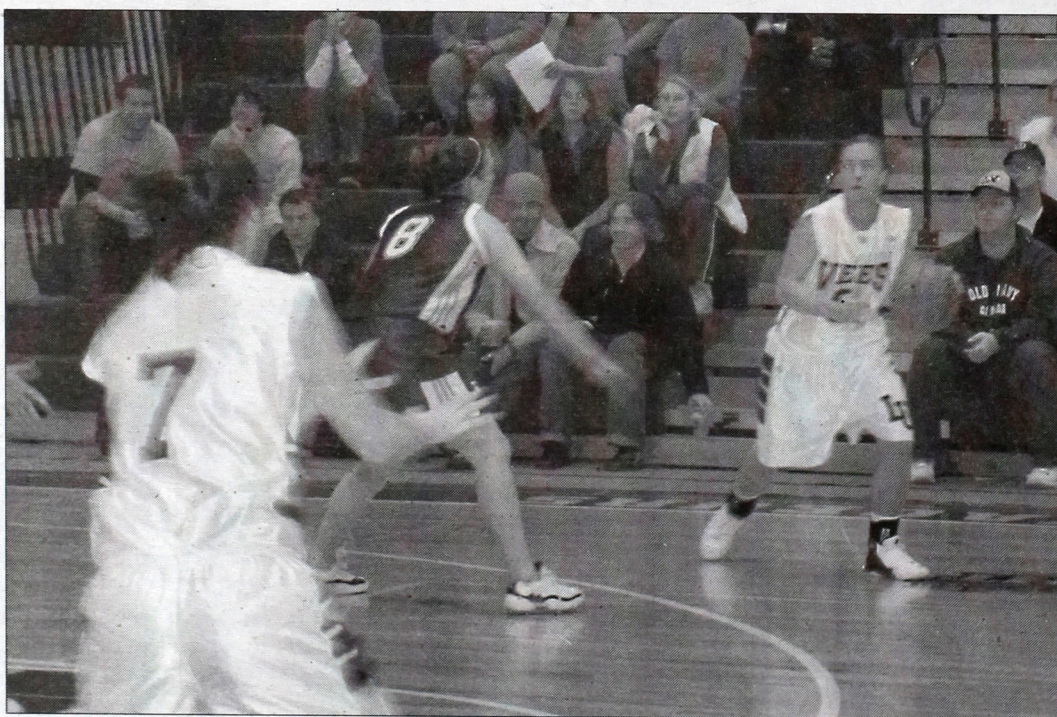
Everything started out well enough for Laurentian; good offensive strategy melded with stifling defence put the Lady Vees up big early in the game. With six minutes remaining in the half, Laurentian was up 22-8, and the team held on to their 14-point lead until the buzzer sounded. After 20 minutes, Laurentian was up 30-16, and the game seemed to be well in hand.

The second half was an entirely different story as the Gee-Gees made a strong push. Ottawa went on a 9-0 run to start the second, keeping Laurentian off the scoreboard for the first four minutes of play. Lisa Roberts and Carpenter tried to lead their team to victory, but Ottawa proved to be too much for the Lady Vees to handle.

With less than seven minutes to play, Ottawa jumped out in front by a single point. Neither team lit up the lamp over the remainder of the game, and with one minute to go the Gee-Gees still maintained their one-point advantage. When an Ottawa player hit a huge three-pointer, extending the lead to four with 22 seconds left, Laurentian's will had been broken. When the



The Lady Vees wrapped up another season last weekend when they lost to Ottawa in the OUA East division final. It is the second straight year that the team has lost to the Gee-Gees at that point of the playoffs.



After the disappointing loss, the Lady Vees will now focus their attention on next season. The team will be losing five key members to graduation, but recruitment measures are already underway to help fill the holes these veterans will be leaving.

buzzer sounded, Ottawa had earned the right to play in this year's national tournament, once again defeating Laurentian in the East division final, this time by a score of 57-51.

Leading the way for the Lady Vees in a losing cause was Roberts, who managed 14 points, including 80 per cent shooting from beyond the arc. Carpenter finished with her third straight double-double, counting 12 points and 11 boards. Hoo, in her last game for the blue and gold,

reached double figures with 10 points and eight rebounds.

An important factor in the six-point loss was free-throw shooting; after an exceptional performance in their previous game, the Lady Vees could not get it done at the stripe in this one, making only six of their 14 attempts for less than 43 per cent. Turnovers were also a problem, as Laurentian committed 14 compared to Ottawa's six.

But, it was not all disappointment for the team this season. Several members of the team were recognized by the OUA for their stellar performances this season, including team leaders Carpenter and Hoo. Carpenter, last year's CIS rookie of the year, added two more awards to her impressive resume, including OUA East defensive player of the year, becoming only the second player in the history of the league to be distinguished with both honours in the same year. Carpenter's 19.4 points per game was second in the province, her 10.5 rebounds per game led the league, and her 3.3 steals per game was good enough for second.

Carpenter's 427 points this season smashed the previous record for points in a single season of 418; however, Brock's Jodie Ebeling finished her season five days later with 430 points, squeaking past Carpenter's mark and relegating the Lady Vees star to second place in the record books. Carpenter also finished second in the race for rebounds in a single season; her total of 230 this season fell one board short of the record-holding mark of 231.

Hoo, on the other hand, took home the Joy Bellinger award. This prestigious award is designated to a graduating student who has demonstrated good sportsmanship, maintained a good academic average and contributed to basketball in Ontario. The academic all-Canadian and four-time OUA all-star regularly contributes to the basketball community in Sudbury through coaching and clinics.

"This award is especially meaningful to me," Hoo said. "It represents the importance of both basketball and community involvement in my life."

Hoo's 1224 career points places her fourth on the all-time OUA list for points in a career, and places a well-earned punctuation mark on her storied five-year career with Laurentian.

Carpenter, of course, was named a first team all-star in the East, while Hoo was named to the second team. Rookie six-

footer Amanda McConnell made the all-rookie team for her excellent play in the post, a sign of things to come for the Lady Vees.

"Being recognized as individuals is a function of a strong team," Clarke said. "Cassandra, Tierney and Amanda all did an outstanding job this year, as individuals and as part of our team. Their success is well-deserved, and I wish them the best."

LAMBDA SPORTS

Sports Editor: Kris Harris - lambda_sports@laurentian.ca

Swim teams go to nationals

BY KRIS HARRIS
SPORTS EDITOR

The Laurentian Aqua Vees swim teams have both wrapped up another successful season after competing in both the provincial and national championships. The OUA championships took place on Feb. 11-13 at Brock University, where Laurentian took home a total of seven medals. The CIS championships were held this past weekend in Edmonton, and although the teams did not have any podium finishes, they put together a respectable showing.

At the OUA's, Laurentian phenom Marshall Bonner delivered both gold-medal winning performances the team saw; on day one of the meet, he successfully defended his title in the 50-metre backstroke, and on day two, he managed to capture the gold in the 100-metre backstroke as well.

The 400-metre individual medley saw two Aqua Vees reach the podium, with Colin Jenkins taking the silver and Ryan Smith bringing home the bronze on the first day of the meet. On the same day, Laurentian's 4X50-metre freestyle relay team of Bonner, Jenkins, Willie Paul and Emmanuel Angrand won the bronze, finishing only seven-tenths of a second out of first place.

On the final day of the meet, the women's team scored their first medal when Stephanie Kuhn took the bronze in the 100-metre freestyle. Kuhn had narrowly missed the podium with two fourth-place finishes before finally realizing her goal on the final day. The Voyageurs received



STEPHANIE KUHN



MARSHALL BONNER

their final medal of the championships in the 4X100-metre freestyle relay, when Bonner, Angrand, Paul and Jenkins were awarded the bronze.

Overall, the men's team took home fourth place, while the women's team managed to place sixth in the standings.

"We are very pleased with the results this weekend," said head coach Phil Parker after the meet. "The swimmers are peaking just in time for the CIS championships."

That national meet took place two weeks later, on Feb. 25-27 in Edmonton. The competition was much stiffer at this meet, but the Aqua Vees still managed to hold their own.

The first day saw Bonner compete in the 50-

metre backstroke, the event that he has never lost at the provincial level. He took fifth in the preliminary heat, and improved to fourth by the final, missing the podium by only four one-hundredths of a second. Other places on the first day of nationals included: Jenkins and Smith finishing twelfth and sixteenth respectively in the 50-metre backstroke, the men's 4X100-metre freestyle relay taking eleventh, and the women's 4X100-metre freestyle relay ending up in sixteenth.

Day two of the meet saw the Aqua Vees struggle. Paul took the best finish of the day with his eleventh-place finish in the 200-metre butterfly, Bonner finished thirteenth in the 100-metre backstroke, and Erin O'Neill headed up the women's team with her fifteenth-place finish in the 200-metre butterfly. In relay events, the men's and women's teams took eighth and sixteenth place respectively in the 800-metre freestyle.

On the final day of the meet, the Aqua Vees got some good performances from Jenkins and Smith. Jenkins took tenth in the 200-metre backstroke and twelfth in the 200-metre individual medley, and Smith took twelfth in the 200-metre backstroke. In relay action, the men's powerhouse team managed tenth while the women's team took sixteenth in the 400-metre medley.

In team standings, the men grabbed tenth spot overall, while the women finished nineteenth.

"Everyone fought hard today," the coach said. "We are extremely happy with the top ten finish, and are very proud of all the efforts made by all the swimmers at this meet."

Voyaguers out in first round

BY KRIS HARRIS
SPORTS EDITOR

The Laurentian Voyageurs basketball team was unable to make it out of the first round of the playoffs, losing to the Ottawa Gee-Gees in divisional quarter-final action on Feb. 19 and putting an end to a mediocre season. The Voyageurs, who displayed fleeting moments of excellence at times on the court this year, will now focus on continuing their rebuilding process next season with a good core of returning players.

After winning four of their last five games to end the regular season, Laurentian secured the sixth and final playoff spot in the OUA East division and travelled to Ottawa to take on the third-ranked Gee-Gees. Ottawa would stomp out Laurentian's playoff hopes, as they would go on to do to the team's female counterparts just more than a week later.

The game started out well for the Voyageurs, who used their quickness to jump out to an early lead. They remained ahead by a basket for most of the half; however, the Gee-Gees put together a couple of strong plays near the end of the half and took a four-point lead into the break. Leading scorers in the first half for the Voyageurs were Aaron Sidenberg with eight, Ben Palmer with seven and Lucas Wiebenga with six, accounting for combined 21 of Laurentian's 29-point halftime production.

The second half proved to be disastrous for the Voyageurs; the team just couldn't get it done against the heavily-favoured Gee-Gees. Turnovers became a major story line in the game as Ottawa managed to force Laurentian into committing 19. Matt Brown and Andy Greig weren't willing to let the game go without a fight, however; with the Voyageurs down by 20, they each found their rhythm from three-point land, pouring in nine straight points for the blue and gold. Unfortunately for the team, the Ottawa lead was insurmountable, and the Voyageurs fell by a 79-65 margin.

"Unfortunately, we didn't play our best in this crucial time," said head coach Virgil Hill. "Since we missed out on the playoffs last year, I think there was some nervousness going into this game."

"This experience was a good one for the team, and we can definitely use this as a building block for next



Kris Harris / LAMBDA

The Voyageurs may have lost early in the playoffs this year, but all-star forward Ben Palmer will be returning next season."

Palmer was the story of the game for the Voyageurs, scoring 16 points and adding four boards, while Sidenberg and Wiebenga each finished the game with nine points and two rebounds. Wiebenga knocked down three of his four attempts from beyond the arc while accumulating five personal fouls in only 11 minutes on the floor.

Palmer was also the only Laurentian player to receive recognition for his efforts from the OUA, being named a second-team all-star. Graduating point-guard Greig also made his mark on the record books; he finished his career with the best free-throw percentage the country has ever seen. Greig's mark of 92.8 per cent from the charity stripe eclipsed the previous CIS record for a career of 89.1 per cent, vaulting him into the all-time record book for years to come.

Lacrosse at Laurentian

This past Saturday, for the first time in years, there was

lacrosse played on the Laurentian University campus. More than 20 male and female students took what is hoped to be the first of many opportunities to enjoy a game with deep roots in North American history. Originally played by First Nations people across the continent, lacrosse has enjoyed a world-wide renaissance of sorts over the last few years.

Organizing last Saturday's activity here at Laurentian, (which took place in the Alphonse Raymond gymnasium) was second-year Sport Psychology student Caleb Leduc, who was assisted by Dr. George Sheppard of the School of Education. The inaugural session involved an instructional component on the basics of the game, as well as an "interlax" (absolutely no contact) scrimmage using sticks provided by the Greater Sudbury Lacrosse Association.

The group will be getting together again throughout the rest of the semester enjoying the physical activity and wellness that comes from playing Canada's National Summer Sport in a co-ed fun atmosphere. Anyone interested should email

cr_leduc@laurentian.ca.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Arts & Entertainment Editors: Ben Rowe and Robin Crowder - lambda_arts@laurentian.ca

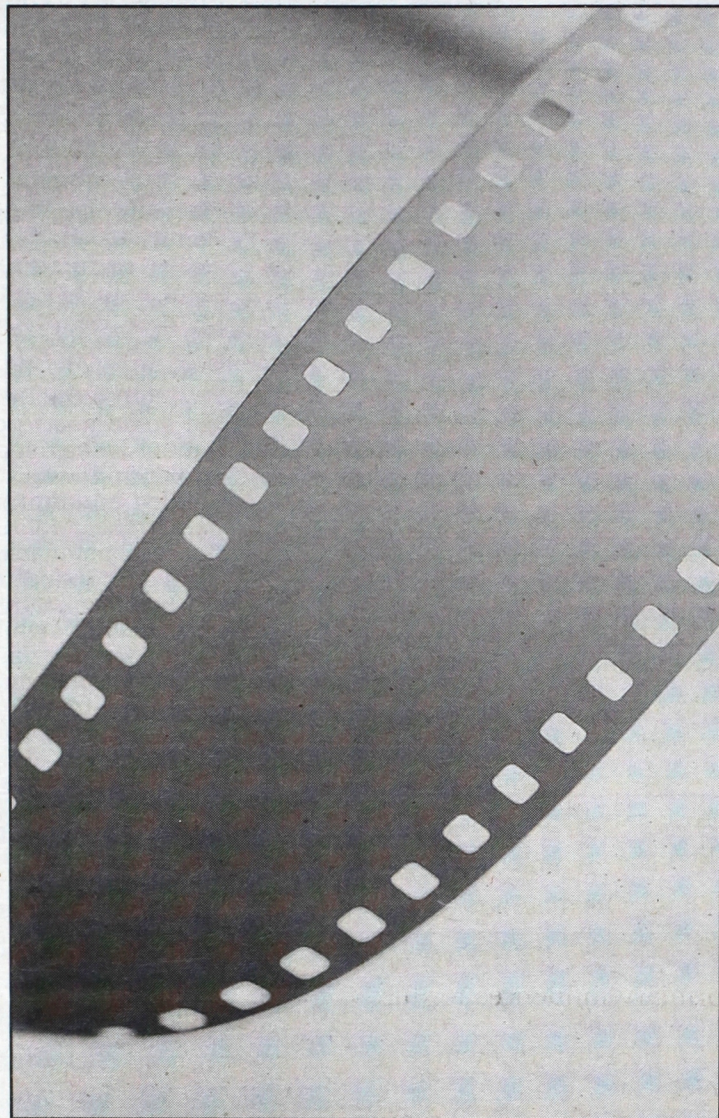
Music and Film Motion launches third annual awards program

BY ROBIN CROWDER
A&E EDITOR

As many performers, singers, songwriters and film makers know, it is often extremely hard to break into the business and make a name for oneself, but budding artists across northern Ontario have the opportunity to make that leap a little bit easier. Non-profit organization Music and Film in Motion is launching its third annual Northern Ontario Music and Film Awards Program, with nominations in all categories now open.

Music and Film in Motion (MFM) is an organization run mainly out of Sudbury whose purpose is to foster and promote the development of the music and film industries within the city and the rest of Northern Ontario. Two years ago, they launched their first Awards program and received over 100 submissions to various categories, with one even coming from as far as Portland, Oregon.

In conjunction with the Cinéfest Sudbury International Film Festival, the program united the music and film industry while handing out ten different category-specific awards. Its popularity continued into 2004, and according to executive director Denis Landry, "With the growth



of the award submissions over the last two years, we are expecting this year's nominations to be even stronger."

This year, the program has added two new categories to its music awards section, Best Vocal Performance on a Recording and Best Performer. These accompany Best Songwriter,

Best Album and Best Engineer.

Somewhat different than the other categories, Best Presenter aims to recognize a business or organization that supports or presents live, original music in northern Ontario. Landry expresses much excitement over this new addition and feels that it well reflects the changing face and needs of the music industry.

Unfortunately, not running in 2005 are awards for Best

Francophone Recording and Best Aboriginal Recording, as MFM directors have found that there is a relatively low number of submissions. "We've decided to go back to the drawing board" says Landry, "I think we need to look at a strategy where we stagger these two awards."

He hopes to eventually open the categories up every two years in an effort to allow sufficient releases to make it a fair and equitable contest and has a strong desire to reopen nominations in 2006. However, French and Aboriginal submissions are eligible in other categories, so artists and communities are encouraged to take advantage and submit their projects.

On the other side of the tape, in the film portion of the awards program, the categories remain the same with nominations open for Best Film, Best Director, Best Film Editor, Best Cinematography and Best Screenplay.

Furthermore, each year, an honorary Trailblazer Award is also handed out in recognition of an individual, group or organization that has made outstanding contributions to either the music or film industry in the North.

Nominations opened February 21st and the deadline to submit falls on May 13, 2005. Eligible projects must have been released between Feb. 1, 2004 and May 13, 2005, and artists are permitted to nominate either themselves or others. In order

to be eligible for the award, artists must meet the criteria of being considered a northern Ontario resident; this means they must have been born in northern Ontario, been a resident of northern Ontario for a period of at least 5 consecutive years or have lived in northern Ontario continuously during the period Feb. 1, 2004 to May 13, 2005 inclusively. In group collaboration, a minimum of 50 per cent of the members must meet residency requirements and all participants are encouraged to verify official eligibility rules and regulations before submitting their project. The submission fee is \$5 for MFM members and \$15 for non-members.

The awards submissions are juried each year by prominent Canadian individuals in the music and film industries with three finalists being selected from each category.

This year, finalists will be announced during the month of July, and the Awards Ceremony will be held in Sudbury on Sept. 17, 2005.

Full category descriptions, eligibility requirements, entry regulations and submission forms are available online at www.thinknorth.ca, under the "What's New" section of the website.

For further questions regarding the Awards Program please contact MFM at (705) 674-9954, toll-free at 1-866-674-9954 or email awards@thinknorth.ca.

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TowneHouse hosting das macht SHOW

Harmony, a sense of humour and an eclectic blend of western swing, country and folkie, acoustic pop.

Put them all together and you wind up with Manitoba band das macht SHOW, who will be bringing their unique sound to the TowneHouse on March 6. The band has appeared in the Sudbury area before, entertaining fans at the Copper Cliff Legion during their fall tour of Ontario.

A sarcastic wit combines with a growing political awareness in the band's late-2003 release Four Legs Good, an album that became popular on many campus radio stations and even CBC radio.

With a lineup that includes guitar, accordion, mandolin, upright bass, clarinet and four-part harmonies, the group is gaining a following among bluegrass fans as well as fans of a more contemporary sound. Think Elvis Costello or Tom Waits and you'd be in the general area of how this band sounds. But don't expect much in the way of traditional lyrics or sounds - the Monroe Brothers aren't a good comparison. In truth, das macht SHOW is a rare sound that has to be heard to be believed.

Showtime is at 8 pm and tickets cost \$10 at the door.

For more information on the band, visit www.dasmachtshow.ca.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Arts & Entertainment Editors: Ben Rowe and Robin Crowder - lambda_arts@laurentian.ca

Will Gillespie to unveil 'The New Standard' at TowneHouse CD release party

BY BEN ROWE
A&E EDITOR

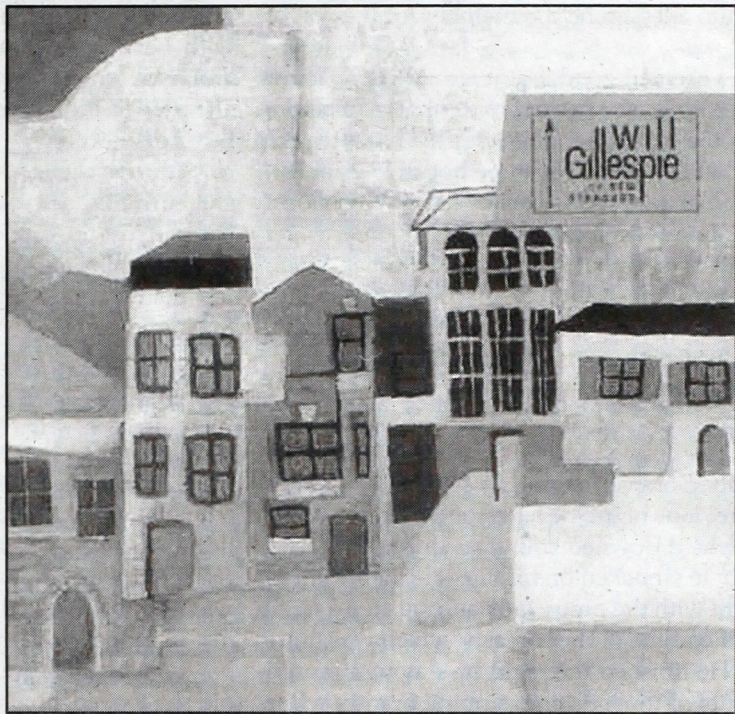
For Will Gillespie, it's a chance to take his burgeoning music career to the next level.

The Sudbury resident has been playing music since he was four years old, listening to his family play songs on the piano in their basement in South Porcupine, Ont.

"My grandmother, who I did my first recording with when I was five, she used to always - and I was way too young to understand this - but she tried to show me how she 'jazzed up' old standards and turned them into jazz songs right in front of me," Gillespie remembered. "That influence sort of sank in a good sixteen years later."

Now, Gillespie is releasing his first self-made album at the TowneHouse Tavern on Thursday, March 10. He's brought some friends with him, too: The band Salo, a trio of people Gillespie has known since his high school days, will hit the T-House stage after Gillespie's band. There will also be a curtain show beforehand, where members of Huntington's and Cambrian's music faculties will play jazz music.

"That curtain show worked out okay for me, because my band will be a good segue between a hard-core jazz band and a



Pictured above is the cover of 'The New Standard,' the upcoming release by artist Will Gillespie.

heavy, melodic rock band," Gillespie explained.

Right smack dab in the middle of the two is Gillespie's mix of jazz-influenced music, which he tried to explain.

"I used to say it was like if Neil Young and Crazy Horse tried to do Cole Porter tunes," he said. "It's got a little of that dirty, jammy kind of tone with jazz voicings and lots of ninth chords and that sort of thing; singer-songwriter pop played with more of a jazz mentality."

"My stuff, night by night, is slightly different.

There are similar set lists every time we play, but the arrangements are very loose and jam-based," he finished.

Gillespie listed Neil Young, Rufus Wainwright and the late, legendary guitarist Lenny Breau as primary influences for his own music.

"I steal from them, for sure," he laughed. "But some of my stuff goes more along a Tom Waits vein."

His new cd, The New Standard, is a mix of new songs with some of Gillespie's old favourites.

"There are a couple of songs from previous

releases, so it's a little bit of a best-of."

An appearance at the 2001 Northern Lights Festival gave Gillespie his first opportunity to put together an album, which he called Fireworks, but that effort was primarily to ensure he had some product to market at the festival. This is the first time Gillespie has done the majority of the instrumentation and post-production himself. In fact, he explained that aside from the drummer and an upright bass player, the instruments on the album were all played by him.

"It's my first self-produced thing, and it's the first one I've promoted this much," he explained.

Gillespie has an extensive compilation of songs, and narrowing down the list for an album proved difficult, he said. The large collection of his writings are the result of learning music at a young age.

"I wrote my first melody at about four, but I didn't write songs on a regular basis until high school," he said.

While he learned how to play music on a piano, it was the guitar that eventually came to be his primary means of artistic expression. Mostly, the transition was predicated by necessity.

"A guitar is portable

and affordable compared to a piano," he laughed. "I got a guitar on my 16th birthday and I've basically played that one since."

It was this guitar Gillespie took with him to school, and it's the same one he brought to Sudbury when he moved here a few years ago, filled with clichés, he said. He showed up in Sudbury with "a backpack full of clothes and a guitar."

"I was a bit of a walking stereotype back then; I did the folk stuff and started out with a pony-tail."

After the TowneHouse show, Gillespie has plans to continue making music.

"At the moment I'm also working on getting together with more people and trying to figure out the next recording; and I'm doing demos already, on a four-track."

Gillespie plans to move to Kingston in the summer to be closer to a hotbed of music activity: Toronto. He has already been booked for four shows there in April, where he hopes to garner some attention for his unique sound.

Before then, though, Gillespie's cd can be found at Mudshark (the former location of the Green Teapot) or Records on Wheels, both on Elm Street in downtown Sudbury.

Airbandz put on great show for charity

BY ROBIN CROWDER
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

It's not every day you get the chance to see AC/DC, the Beastie Boys, the Beatles, Michael Jackson and the Spice Girls perform all on one stage, nevertheless the second annual UC/SSR Airbandz for Cancer on Feb. 11 allowed just that.

Of course, as its name alludes, these were not the actual bands, but rather groups of students performing some of their favourite acts in an effort to raise money for cancer. Although, with the energy in the audience and the caliber of the performers you'd definitely think it was the real thing.

Born last year as the brain child of Michael "Dex" Brown, an RA in University College Residence, the show gives students the chance become a rock star, have little fun and take a shot at winning the big prize money. Potential contestants, all of whom live on campus in either UC or SSR (or have at least one group member who does), must audition to earn their spot, and from there have just about a month to practice, perfect and perform.

Third place takes home \$200, second place \$300 and the first place group wins \$500, all the money being donated by Rez Office. However, as most performers will tell you, they're not really in it for the money

- the emphasis is on having great time and raising money for a worthy cause.

And a great time was had by all. More than just a lip sync competition, the groups all took creative approaches to their performances, some including home made video, some mimicking the artists' videos and others making it all their own. As much as the medleys of songs put together was fantastic, it was really the effort put into the costumes that made the acts that much better.

Special mention goes to the Beastie Boys, Kiss and both Michael Jackson performances for portraying their artists to a tee! What's more, in this high energy, concert style atmosphere audience members were also treated to the comedy styling of MCs Patrick "Paddy" Murphy and Josh "Jova" Hatt, whose introductory sketches between acts earned much laughter.

In order to make this event a good time but a serious competition, organizers enlisted the help of five high profile people: Laurentian President Dr. Judith Woodsworth, SGA President Cathy Carroll, former SGA President Erika Mieto, Pub Manager Jorge Zafiris and Vince Kuber, the owner of Wicked Rides Speed'n'Customs.

Though the decision was undoubtedly difficult, the judges deliberated long and

hard before reaching a final decision. Third place went to the Dudez-A-Plenti, return performers and winners from last year, who sang and danced to a variety of boy band songs; performed by a group of students from J-1st and a truly fabulous Michael Jackson, Thriller took home second place. Finally, first place went to a much deserving group of 5 UC boys whose presentation of the Beastie Boys was right on.

At any rate, this is no small-time event. With tickets selling for only \$3 in advance and \$5 at the door, Airbandz for Cancer sold out for the second year in a row, packing the Fraser Auditorium to capacity. The audience was a diverse as the performances with students from residence and off campus, parents and grandparents and even a few pros filling the seats.

Through ticket sales, refreshment sales and various events in residence, the event was able to earn over \$5000 for the Sudbury Cancer Treatment Centre, more than doubling the total from last year. The group who took home second place even went so far as to hand over their prize money as an extra donation.

All in all, it was an extremely well organized, fabulously presented, successful show that is by now surely cemented as one residence's newest and most popular traditions.

FICTION FEATURE

Please be advised that the following short story contains **mature content** and is only suitable for adult readers.

The content contained in this story does not necessarily reflect the ideas and opinions of Lambda or Lambda staff.

The Letter

By: Kris Harris

Before she had even opened the letter, she knew.

Oh, there had been plenty of signs over the last couple of years; an unidentifiable phone number found in his wallet, the smell of woman's perfume on his shirt after he had supposedly put in some "hard overtime," the way he acted after coming home from a guy's night out, or the late-night phone calls he would always attribute to "old friends."

Not to mention the fact that he never kissed her anymore; at least not the way he used to, the way that had made her fall in love with him in the first place.

No, none of that had definitively indicated to her that her husband was cheating on her, but she'd had her suspicions. She had even tried to call him on it a couple of times, but he had always denied it.

"No way, darlin'," he'd say. "You're way off base on that one."

But looking at the pretentious envelope marked "To Kirk Patterson," she knew her deepest fears had finally come to fruition.

Without any sense of guilt, she tore open the envelope. There were two folded sheets of personalized stationery inside, obviously taken from a woman's desk. A strong feeling of rejection mingled with overwhelming depression blasted her stomach, turning it inside-out.

But wasn't a third feeling present, behind the others? Biting the backs of her eyes so fiercely that she had to blink for a moment to clear her vision? She believed there was, and she suspected the feeling was a sort of mix between blinding rage and unfettered insanity.

Hesitating out of fear, she tried to remember the good times she'd had with Kirk, but her memory banks were temporarily bone-dry on this subject.

She unfolded the pages.

Kirk:

I don't know who the fuck you think you are, but the strings of my heart are not to be played like this. If you'd just return my phone calls, I wouldn't have to tell you like this, but you're such a big man, I guess you don't have the time for that... Anyway, I'm pregnant. Yeah, that's right, you knocked me up, you fucked up, you told me that you couldn't but you did, it had to be you, I didn't...

She didn't have to read any more of the rambling dialogue to understand the point of the story; her husband of seven long years had impregnated some stupid bitch, and now she wanted him to come clean about it and pony up some dough. Seemed simple enough. Who cared about the wife, anyway?

Maybe he'd never mentioned it. That seemed a lot more likely.

All of a sudden, she felt a strange, twisted bond to the other woman. After all, hadn't she herself fallen for the exact same lies, the exact same story, the exact same song and dance?

She knew just what was coming next for the woman, too; Kirk Patterson did not intend to have children, and this fact could be proven by the two abortions he had already pressured her into having, the first three years ago and the last only about five weeks ago. She still had pains in her abdomen when she walked too long or got up out of a chair too fast.

She scanned to the end of the letter to find out the woman's name; Susan was scrawled nearly illegibly at the end of the rant. She tried to think of who the woman was, of how she knew her husband, but nothing came to her.

This thought broke off as a desperate idea came to her. In her tender mental state, she grasped at the

idea as a drowning swimmer might grasp for a life-preserver or an outstretched hand, and it stuck firm in her mind. She was thinking of a way to teach her husband a lesson. A man like Kirk Patterson really hated to be taught a lesson, and this idea would sure teach him a good lesson, all right.

Teach him a lesson he'd remember for the rest of his life.

The idea seemed good, but it would take a lot of guts, and she knew she needed to think it over before taking it to the extreme. Checking her wristwatch, she noted that she had over three hours to establish and finalize her plan, as it was exactly two o'clock. This time-frame was good; not enough time to get cold feet and chicken out, not too much time to realize the gravity of the events she planned to carry out.

She went into the bathroom to draw a bath, which was the best way to make the biggest decision of her life that she could think of.

Kirk Patterson was having a very bad day. After work the previous night, he had stopped in at a strip-joint, where he'd downed countless drinks and paid a pretty lady to sit naked on his lap. He then went to a motel room with the pretty lady and snorted a large mountain of cocaine off her breasts, which was quite enjoyable. He finished the night by staying up until the wee hours of the morning, sipping brandy while the pretty lady performed her sinful services on him, having himself a grand old time before heading home just after dawn and passing out on the living-room couch.

Today, his head and his balls were both throbbing quite fiercely, but he had gone through this routine before; plenty of times, truth be told. It was times like this that a man showed the world just what kind of a man he really was - a 'real man,' like himself, was supposed to wake up on time, kiss the wife and head to work.

But damned if the boys in the office weren't busting his chops a little more viciously than he was used to, and damned if his supervisor, Barry, wasn't sneering at him with his contemptuous smirk a little wider than he could handle right now.

As if conjured by this thought, Barry sauntered over to Kirk's desk, his ample gut protruding from his button-up shirt and that grin splitting his face ear-to-ear.

"Rough night, Patterson?" he asked smugly. Kirk simply bowed his head in response, rubbing his temples with index fingers, which enticed a baleful burst of laughter from Barry.

"Who was she?" Barry asked in between chuckles. Kirk fought off the urge to say it had been Barry's wife, and that she was so undersexed that she had kept him up all night. He simply sat there, scanning the reports on his desk with his head down and waited for Barry to leave.

Eventually, Barry grew tired of Kirk's lack of response and he left, presumably to find someone that would be more willing to laugh at his own expense. Kirk sighed with relief.

What did I do to deserve this? He wondered to himself for a moment, but he quickly dismissed that question as its response dawned on him. He had a brief mental image of Susan, and he contemplated going to her apartment after work before heading home; she could probably ease the pain in both his head and his balls. But he rejected the idea almost as instantly as it had come upon him; the old ball-and-chain would be expecting him home tonight promptly at five, since it was their weekly dinner engagement, and it would not do him any good to show up late. Not that it would do him any good to show up at all.

At two-fifteen, his designated coffee break, Kirk raced down the stairs adjacent to his office and grabbed his two ham-and-mustard sandwiches from the glove compartment of his Impala. He ate this makeshift lunch while standing alone in the alley behind his office building, as he sometimes did when he was having a bad day. Once he had finished eating, he spent the final few minutes of his break fantasizing about killing Barry in various fashions before heading back inside to finish the day of work like the real man he always knew he was.

After a full hour in the bath, she had developed her plan into something of a masterpiece. She got out of the tub, towelled herself dry and prepared to carry out her plan. With one towel wrapped around her body and one wrapped in her long auburn hair, she grabbed the letter and rustled it very deliberately with her hands in order to give a more well-read look; she hadn't even read one-fifth of the thing, but she needed it to appear differently if her plan was to be fulfilled.

Oh, she wished it didn't have to come to this, but she currently saw no alternative. In all likelihood, she had lost the capacity to comprehend the situation clearly the instant she first laid eyes upon the letter in the mailbox, and she was now running purely on instinct.

Instinct and adrenaline.

She dressed casually, in navy blue slacks and a white blouse. She noted with disdain that Kirk had just given her the blouse last Christmas, and that realization almost sent her mind reeling with confusion, but she settled herself with unnatural ease. She began to put on her make-up quickly; it wouldn't matter in the end how it looked anyway, as long as it was on. She finished by putting her lipstick on twice, just for good measure.

Looking at herself in the mirror, she noticed how old she looked, how tired. There were more wrinkles under her eyes and at the sides of her mouth than was normal for a woman her age, but she felt no sadness or self-pity. In that moment of time, she understood Kirk was responsible for her premature aging, for her lack of friends, for her general hatred of her life, and she wondered why she had never realized this fact before.

She recollected about how things had been before they moved into this house, before she and Kirk had gotten married. She wondered if there ever really had been any good times. The quite likely possibility that there had not, in fact, been any good times sent her mind once again swooning with grief, but she pulled herself together by thinking of the plan. It really was all she had left.

She glanced briefly at her watch and noticed with a brutal calm that it was five past four; she had lost almost a full half-hour to memory lane. She composed herself one last time and set to make her final arrangements.

She went into the small kitchen she had shared with Kirk for the past five years and took the largest butcher knife from the knife-rack between the sink and the toaster. She checked the knife's sharpness by gently running her left ring-finger along the slightly serrated edge of the blade, which sank happily into the soft flesh and produced a trickle of blood. She absently placed the finger into her mouth, but she felt no pain. It would not do to track her blood around the house, though. No, that would not do at all.

Just to be on the safe side, she decided to wrap a small Band-Aid around the minor wound. She then went to the living room, collected the portable phone from its cradle and sat down at the dining room chair that faced the window looking out on the driveway. She placed her three items on the table in front of her: the phone, the knife and the letter.

All that was left to do now was wait.

At quarter to five, Kirk was on his way home. He made a quick stop at McDonald's, ordering two McChicken sandwiches with supersized fries. He had never really cared for the wife's cooking very much, and she was undoubtedly busy at this very moment preparing something that he would be hard-pressed to feed to a stray dog. A hungry stray dog, at that.

As he wolfed down the McMeal, he began to reminisce about brighter days than these, before he had gotten married. Those were the days for men like Kirk Patterson; men like Kirk Patterson didn't really care for the married life very much. He began to think of Susan again, although he hadn't seen her for over a week. He became consumed with his thoughts of her, of their last secret rendezvous ten days earlier.

Continued on Page 17

FICTION FEATURE

Continued from Page 16

She's so young, he thought to himself, a full ten years younger than himself, which made her an even dozen years younger than the wife. At first the affair had been strictly about the sex (and what great sex it was), but as time passed, Kirk found himself thinking about Susan more and more. About her seemingly chiselled body, her sparkling blue-green eyes, her insatiable love of life.

He was so deeply engrossed in his daydream about Susan that he neglected to notice that the red Ford pick-up he had been tailing off-and-on since he left work had put on its brake lights. He snapped awake an instant too late; he jerked the wheel hard to the right, but was unable to avoid the collision. He smashed into the Ford's right taillight, sending the truck forward a dozen feet. His seatbelt bit deeply into his chest and he wheezed out a sharp gasp of surprise.

The Patterson Impala had come to a stop immediately after the impact. After taking a moment to gather his bearings, Kirk swung his door open and stepped out into the gloom of the early evening.

Great, he thought. Just fucking great. He had already started to devise a story that would leave the other driver responsible for the accident when the driver's-side door of the Ford opened and a striking young woman stepped out. She had long, wavy red hair, and Kirk instantly shifted it into high gear.

A few minutes later, he left the scene with the young woman's phone number scrawled on his hand and an ear-to-ear grin plastered on his face. Her name was Denise, she had said, and she was looking for something to do while she was visiting some relatives in town, or something like that. Kirk forgot all about Susan and started to concentrate on figuring out a way out of dinner with the wife; he told Denise that he would call her in about an hour, and he didn't want to keep her waiting.

He couldn't help humming the whole way home; that is, until he turned off the highway onto his street, when a sense of impending doom washed over him like the ocean tide taking down a sandcastle on the beach. He ignored the feeling, even though it took significant effort to do so, and continued home, but he suddenly found that he no longer felt like humming.

In the minutes before it happened, a much-needed clarity washed over her. She started to understand the method behind her madness.

Born into a strict Catholic family, she had always been ashamed of the abortions Kirk had pressured her into having; after the first, she had cried herself to sleep every night for two months, but after the second she was surprised to discover that the tears had apparently dried up. She had vowed to herself then that she would never use that irresponsible form of birth control again, but it proved to be a meaningless promise; Kirk hadn't so much as laid a hand on her since he drove her home from the hospital on that day.

She had been too weak to walk, and he carried her in from the car and laid her on their king-size bed. He had kissed her then, rather sweetly, and told her that everything was going to be all right.

"Don't worry, darlin'," he had said. "We're a team. We're in this together."

It had seemed reassuring at the time, but now she knew the bitter truth. Kirk Patterson was a manipulative bastard, and his only intention had been to make sure his wife remained firmly in his grip after he had gotten what he wanted. Within forty-five minutes of the tender moment, he had left, mumbling something about work.

In hindsight, she supposed he had probably gone to see Susan. They may have even conceived the baby that very night; after all, it was just over a month ago, which would make the timing almost perfect.

And did it really matter? No, it did not. She was resolved to executing her plan at this point. She was tired of the incessant suspicions of infidelity, tired of the occasional slap across the face when Kirk was displeased, tired of the nights spent alone, crying. She may have simply packed up her belongings and left Kirk anyway one day if it hadn't been for the letter.

But, it would give her a certain sense of vindication, of satisfaction if that night had been the ultimate cause of her taking such violent action, if that had been the night that caused it all to end. She remembered that night clearly; she spent the entire night awake and alone in her bed, trying to justify her life to her God, trying to understand her reason to be.

She had pleaded with her God on that fateful night to give her an opportunity to atone for her actions, and even though she intended to commit a

sin that was reprehensible in the Catholic faith, she was confident that her God would judge her fairly and lovingly.

Or maybe that was just her growing insanity talking.

She began to pray for courage, but before she could utter a single word, the glare of headlights washed over her through the window as Kirk pulled into the driveway.

She picked up the phone and serenely thumbed number one on the speed-dial; her sister answered on the first ring, as she expected.

"Sandy, I need you to call the police. Me and Kirk are fighting, and I think he might..." She trailed off there, allowing her sister to jump to her own conclusions on the other end of the line. Despite the urgent desperation in her voice, she had never felt as calm as she did right now.

"What going on? Has he hurt you? Where is he right now?" A sister's concern cannot be mimicked nor mistaken.

"No, not yet, anyway. He just stepped into the kitchen for a minute... I... just send the police here right away, OK? I gotta go." She hung up just in time to hear Kirk come in through the front entrance. Dropping the phone onto the large oak table, she slipped the knife into the right front pocket of her slacks. Its over-sized handle protruded, but she covered it with her untucked blouse. She grabbed the letter from the table, pulled it from its envelope for the second time that day and stuffed it into her left pocket just as he walked into the room.

It was just about show-time.

Kirk Patterson had never felt as unattracted to his wife as he did walking through the door on that momentous evening. He started running over possible excuses for leaving early immediately; he decided to say he had to go to Dave's to help him work on his Harley.

"Hey, honey," he said. "I'm gonna grab a beer. What's for dinner?" He left the room during this last sentence to fulfill his previous one.

"Oh, I just ordered a pizza," she casually replied. "Say, can you grab me a candle from in there? They're in the cupboard under the toaster." Nothing in her voice belied her calm demeanour; in fact, she seemed completely at peace with the world.

Great, Kirk thought to himself for the second time that day. Here comes the romance. Just as his wife had anticipated, Kirk placed his right hand around the knife-rack on the counter to steady himself as he searched for the non-existent candles.

"I can't find any," he hollered back at her. "You sure they're in here?"

"Forget it," she called back. "It doesn't matter anymore."

Perplexed by the cryptic nature of the statement, as well as by his wife's sudden dull tone, Kirk opened the fridge and slowly pulled out a bottle of Heineken. He used the fridge-magnet bottle-opener and took a deep swallow. He noted how exquisitely the beer tasted before returning to his wife.

As he returned to the dining room and laid eyes upon his wife, however, all other thoughts were banished from his mind, and he faintly heard his beer bottle smash against the tile at his feet.

As Kirk returned to the dining room, she pulled the knife and the letter from their respective pockets. She jerked both of her arms straight, holding each item at arms-length away from her. A wry, twisted smirk of self-satisfaction tore at her face, distorting it completely.

In the moment before she exacted her revenge, her clarity of the situation was heightened; she began to fully understand the reasoning behind her drastic measures. Throughout her entire life, she had always felt a certain degree of self-loathing. She remembered that before she had met Kirk, she had often considered herself a ticking time-bomb, just waiting to explode. Somehow, meeting Kirk and accepting his subsequent marriage proposal had changed all that; for the first time in her life she had felt a sense of being loved, a sense of importance, a sense of place. She had finally felt at peace with the world.

However, since she'd had the second abortion, those feelings of self-loathing had grown exponentially. That all-important sense of place had dissipated, but not all at once; so slowly, in fact, that she'd hardly even noticed the change in her personality. Reading the letter had simply been the straw that broke the camel's back, she supposed, and now the feeling that she was a ticking time-bomb was back in full force,

and the tiny digital clock on its face was flashing zeros. This was simply the only way she could put her feelings of guilt and shame to rest, and make her bastard husband pay for what he had done to her at the same time.

Her sense of kinship with the other woman, with Susan was renewed as she understood that what she doing now she was doing for both of them. She realized that by taking one life, she would be saving another, that of the unborn baby that Susan was currently carrying. She would also be sparing Susan the lifetime of unspeakable torment that would plague her if Kirk was allowed to have his way and prevent her from carrying that baby to term.

Still smiling, she swung the knife downwards in a violent arc. It pierced through her ribcage and slashed into her heart. The pain was excruciating; she instantly began to see large, black blotches swimming in front of her eyes. She tried to twist the knife in deeper, but the handle was covered in blood and her hand slipped off it weakly, falling limply to her side.

Her smile widened as Kirk rushed towards her, turning into a lunatic's grin. Blood gushed out of her mouth, but she couldn't stop smiling. She glanced at the letter, which she was still holding in her left hand, and thanked it silently. She felt as if she had been set free.

Kirk made it to his wife's side, stalled for a moment, then plucked the butcher knife from her chest. Only a few seconds had elapsed since he had re-entered the dining room, but it felt like an eternity. His wife said something quite peculiar then, using her dying breath to utter a statement that would haunt Kirk for the rest of his life.

"For Susan," she said, before her knees buckled and hit the floor. Kirk spied the sheets of paper in her other hand then for the first time, and he grabbed them from her just before she fell on her face, still grinning like a fool in love. He looked at the letter, then the knife, and he was still holding both items with a dazed look in his eyes when the police stormed through the front door a few seconds later.

Kirk Patterson had no trial. On the advice of counsel, and after an extremely long period of deliberation, he pleaded guilty to first-degree manslaughter and was sentenced to fifteen years in a maximum-security prison. He insisted on his innocence, but his lawyer persisted that the deal was his best chance of ever being released from custody. The Crown attorney appeared to have an air-tight case, since all the evidence pointed to Kirk as the guilty party. A murder-one conviction seemed inevitable; Kirk's story of revenge and suicide just wouldn't fly with a jury.

When the plea bargain was finalized in court, and Kirk was asked to allocate to his crime, he began sobbing convulsively and flailing wildly in his shackles. His scream of "That bitch, that fucking BITCH!" was heard in the courtyard.

No formal allocution was ever entered.

That night, as the town slept and a woman named Susan was giving birth to a baby girl in a hospital forty-five miles away, some prison guards thought it would be a delectable gag to bring a sociopath named Brooks to the solitary-confinement cell of the newest member of their exclusive establishment. He was in for wife-killing, and these particular guards made it a rule to give new recruits an accurate sampling of their new lifestyle on their first night in. It was the only way they would learn.

They unleashed Brooks on the unsuspecting man as he slept. The guards crowded around the bars of the cell to get a good look as Brooks got down to business, ripping the wife-killer's pants off in one hefty tug. Two of the guards made a five-dollar wager as to how long it would take for the man to walk again; one week was the set deadline. The guards seemed to mimic the man's screams of agony with their howling laughter, and somewhere a woman's soul laughed with them.

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- Inform the Regional Business Centre that you are considering participating in the *Summer Company* program as soon as possible
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Any questions? Do not hesitate to contact us.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Reader clarifies details of same-sex marriage rally

I am writing in regards to the article written by Neil Zacharjewicz on support of same-sex marriage within the Laurentian community. It appears that Mr. Zacharjewicz unfortunately misrepresented some of the facts about what took place during the rally in front of Diane Marleau's office, resulting in a biased article.

First, I would like to clarify that this was not just a Catholic Church demonstration. This peaceful rally included non-church goers and other denominations, people of all ages (and several 20 and 30 somethings), and members of the Laurentian community. I qualify for each of the above and having

been there, am surprised that Mr. Zacharjewicz neglected to fully report the event as it happened.

More than this, the article failed to recognize that this rally represented the views of at least half the population, including many from the Muslim, Jewish and Sikh communities. Many of whom are found in our own community, and our own university, with a belief in keeping marriage what it is a sacred union between a man and a woman.

Sincerely,
Jane Djivr

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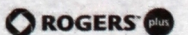
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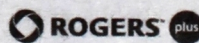
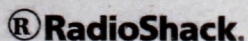


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THORNELOE THEATRE

Crackwalker Preview:

Judith Thompson's powerful play staged at Thorneloe

BY SABRINA JOVIC
LAMBDA CONTRIBUTOR

Thorneloe Theatre Arts will be presenting Judith Thompson's play *The Crackwalker* about the shattered pieces of hopelessness in the lives of some of the most riveting characters you'll ever meet.

Theresa, worshipped by her boyfriend, is a mentally challenged woman who, although she does tricks for a living, can never lose her endearing innocence. Addicted to donuts, a chronic liar and an inept problem solver, Theresa overflows with endless kindness.

Theresa, searches for love but the closest she will come to understanding anything is through a chaotic circle of friends that involves a couple named Sandy and Joe and Alan. Alan, the most messed up of the group, is actually willing to marry Theresa.

It's not easy to explain the relationships in this play as a friendship since there are continual undercurrents of threats of violence within their relations, making their way of life seem more like mutual trespassing and an invite to hurt each others emotions.

The *Crackwalker*, which



The cast of Thorneloe Theatre Arts' production of Judith Thompson's play, *The Crackwalker*, which runs March 11-12 and 15-19, beginning at 8 pm, in the Thorneloe Theatre. The cast includes (from left to right) Sarah Gartshore, R.J. Comeau, Vanessa Ominika, Robert Hamilton and Frank Scardamaglia

is Judith Thompson's first play, was not written for the conservatively minded. Thompson's characters come from the rowdy unfortunate people who live in a cruel world in violent times and are overlooked by society.

Thorneloe University's very own Valerie Senyk

tackles the job of directing the production. She is currently holding the position of the head of the university's Theatre Department and has acted in several of the university's productions this year, such as *The Monument* and *King Lear*.

As Theresa, Vebessa (Amie) Ominika is shock-

ingly good. Her subtlety in creating a brain damaged girl makes her performance terribly heart wrenching and honest. RJ Comeau's Joe is also excellent. Seen last as the outrageous Tom-O-Bedlam in *King Lear* and as a tortured soldier in *The Monument*, here Comeau is completely transformed into

a brutal, torturing man who, alone among his group of fellow actors, succeeds. His swagger and untamed alertness to the actions of the others is frightening in its depth and complexity.

Sarah Gartshore's tired-eyed and mouthy Sandy is just as commanding, as she is beaten down and deluded throughout the play. In many ways she is one of the tragic figures in the play, since the audience is able to see that she portrays the intelligence and fortitude to extract herself from the mess of her life, unlike the other characters.

Francesco Scardamaglia's Alan is also powerful, as he portrays the most damaged character of the lot in his gut-wrenching performance of a drowning man grasping to be saved in an unfair world of harsh realities.

The *Crackwalker* plays on March 11 to 12 and from the 15 to 19 at 8pm at Thorneloe Theatre. Tickets are \$10 for Adults, \$6 for Students or Seniors. There will be a Toonie Tuesday on March 15th (sorry no reservations). Tickets are available at Black Cat Too, Laurentian Bookstore or by calling 673-1730.

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